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## above Clinton? Pig THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 4 February 1998 45p No 3,525

## Murdoch faces global tax inquiry, but Blair backs him

**Exclusive:** Move against tycoon as ministers prepare to defend his British interests in the Lords

A SECRET international task force of investigators has been set up to examine why Rupert Murdoch's News Corp pays virtually oo tax. The unprecedented move against the Murdoch empire comes as ministers prepare to go into battle to de-

fend the media baron's British interests. An agreement to launch the inquiry, involving tax investigators from Britain, America, Canada and Australia was reached at a secret meeting in Sydney in December. The authorities are concerned that Mr Murdoch's companies pay a fraction of the taxes paid by his competitors in the cut-throat media business.

At the same time, however, The Independent has learned that Tony Blair has ordered total retreat from any government confrontation with Mr Murdoch over his aggressive pursuit of a price war in the newspaper industry.

Reneging on pre-election pledges, Labour peers have been ordered to oppose an all-party attempt to curb Mr Murdoch's power in a crucial House of Lords vote next Monday.

The ameodment, tabled with all-par-

### A tangled tax web, p2

ty support from Labour and Tory peers. would outlaw, "any conduct on the part of one or more national newspaper uodertakings ... if it may reduce the diversity of the national oewspaper press in the are quite legal. United Kingdom by reducing, retarding, injuring or climinating competition".

The amendment directly targets the predatory price-cutting operations of the Times; clearly designed to damage vulnerable, or less wealthy, competitors like The Independent and Daily Telegroph.

It is understood that the secret meeting of tax investigators was called by the Australian authorities, who have been unhappy about Mr Murdoch's level of tax payments since the 1980s. Although he renounced his Australian nationality in order to become an American citizen in the mid-1980s - allowing him to own Americao television interests - his company is still based in Australia.

Last year, while other international media groups, such as Walt Disney Corporation, paid up to 28 per cent of their income in tax, News Corp reported paying \$103m (£62.42m) on operating profits of \$1.32bn (£800m) world-wide, a rate of just 7.8 per ceot.

In 1989, an Australian parliamentary investigation found that News Corp had routed all its profits through subsidiaries By Steve Boggan and Anthony Bevins

lands, the Dutch Antilles and Bermuda. By the time the money had finished its journey, a loss was recorded in Australia. greatly reducing its overall tax bill.

In the United Kingdom, News International, the UK arm of News Corp. which owns the Times, the Sun, the Sunday Times and the News of the World, recorded profits of almost £1bn between 1985 and 1995. An Independent investigation revealed that the group paid just £11.74m tax - a rate of just 1.2 per cent. At the time, corporation tax was levied at 33 per ceof.

The avoidance methods used by Mr Murdoch's accountants are legal, but there is a political and moral groundswell of opinion which believes News Corp's tax burden should reflect its profits.

"No one is happy with the way Mr Murdoch is behaving," said a source close to the investigation. The [investigators] are querying whether he legitimately makes a loss or not. A plan has been put into place to tackle his empire."

However, unless taxation systems can be unified internationally, it is out clear what the authorities can do. News Corp's avoidance methodology involves intercompany loans, the use of subsidiaries in off-shore tax havens and the tax-relief granted oo interest on loan re-paymeots - some of which the task force will want to examine. All such methods, however,

The problem the tax authorities have with Murdoch is that he has all the facts about everything in his empire but if you are an investigator in the UK, you can only find out about the UK business; if you are an investigator in the US, theo you can only look at the US end," said the source.

The purpose of this meeting was to break across that boundary and share information to try and match [the investigators'] knowledge with his."

All Labour peers have been ordered to vote against it oo Monday, and Lord Simon of Highbury, Minister Trade and Competitiveoess, has said that the Govemment will not depart from a European "model" on tackling abuse of market power. But Cabinet sources have told the Independent that the order had "come down" from No 10 that nothing was to be done to disturb or interfere with the newspaper proprietors. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has been

told to maintain a "hands-off" approach. If the official Opposition backs the Government, or abstains, it is unlikely that the Murdoch amendment can be carried



in low-tax countries like the Cayman Isin the Lords - or upheld in the Commons. Rupert Murdoch: News International, his UK company, pays just 1.2 per cent in tax Photograph: LFI

## Davis quits as new lottery doubts emerge

PETER DAVIS's reign as Britain's first lottery regulator ended with his resignation last night after a stormy four-hour meeting with the Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture. It followed the widespread condemnation of his behaviour as regulator following the Richard Branson libel case. The deputy director general, John Stoker, would take over Mr Davis's duties while a new

director general was found. The resignation came as details emerged which suggested that he misled a House of Commons committee over the vetting of American husinessmen bidding for the lottery licence, His claims to MPs that complete and comprehensive background checks had been made by specialist agencies

have been denied. Just a few weeks before Peter Davis awarded the lottery in May 1994 to the consortium Camelot, involving the cootroversial US company GTech, he approached an international detective agency to carry out confidential checks on 100 people.

The agency, Kroll Associates, said it would take at least of ascertaining the fitness and three mooths to undertake such an examination. However, they quoted a price of last night it had carried out £3,000 per person. A little later they were told oo behalf of available database. Sources in Mr Davis that the checks had the company said it had not carbeen carried out by the FBL

Giving evidence before the check House of Commons Public Accounts Committee in Depeated that he had received information from the FBI". He also said he had received permission from the FBf to

Exclusive

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By Kim Sengupta

oame them as a source for informatioo".

Yesterday a spokesman at the FBI headquarters in Washingtoo DC stated they have no record of any checks being carried out on behalf of the Office of National Lottery or Peter Davis, or any informatioo being passed on to these parties. Nor could be find any record of Mr Davis being giveo permission to tell third parties that the FBI were sources of information.

A spokesman said: "I cannot find any record of a request of that from either Peter Davis, the Office of National Lottery or others acting on their behalf. Nor can I find any record of him being giveo permissioo to say we have been supplying him with information."

Mr Davis said he had hired two outside investigators, Control Risks and Hill Samuel, to carry out some checks, and it was Control Risks who were involved in the crucial question propriety of would be lottery operators. Control Risks said work for Oflot on publicly ried out a comprehensive

The Public Affairs Committee stated that Peter Davis cember 1995. Mr Davis re- made "serious errors of judgement" over his links with GTech before he awarded the

Profile, page 2

## I.Q. of 145 and Can't Remember?

A FAMOUS international publisher reports that there is a simple technique for acquiring a powerful memory which can pay you real dividends

in both business and social advancement. It works like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater popularity.

The details of this method are described in his fascinat-ing booklet, "Adventures in Mamory", sant free on

According to this publisher, many people do not realise how much they can influence others simply by remambering accurately everything they see, hear or read. Whether in business, at social functions, or even in casual conversation with new acquaintances, there are ways in which you can dominate each situation simply by your ability to remember.

For example, you need navar forget anothar appointment — ever! You can learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. Whole bunks and plays can he indelibly imprinted on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinners you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining sto-

ries. In fact, you could be



Forget facts, figures? more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do. These are only a few of the ways in which you can benafit by possaaaing a trained memory.

To acquaint all readers of The Independent with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating hookiat, "Adventuras in Memury", aent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 12 (you don't even nead to stamp your envelope), or write to: Memory and Concentration Studies. (Dept. IDM88), FREEPOST 198, Manchester M60 3DL

### Grim routine played out as woman steels herself for death chamber

THE EXECUTION set for last night of Karla Faye Tucker was to be just like any other at Huntsville Penitentiary: there would be no fuss just because she was a woman. That is, according to Governor George Bush and to officials of the prison yesterday.

True and not true. There was no change to the grim - and, to the prison officers, familiar timetable governing the last minutes of the convict's life. But, for the first time on an execution night, the city's main Episcopal church was to hold a special service at the hour of Tucker's dispatch. And a local bar, two blocks from the prison, had plaos for a post-Karla karaoke party last night.



From David Usborne in Huntsville, Texas

Two telephone lines were kept open to the prison all day yesterday. One was from the US Supreme Court, which last night refused to block Tucker's execution. The second fed directly to the office of Governor Bush in Austin, the state capital.

State officials said that Governor Bush had been awaiting final word from the court before deciding whether to exercise his only option to order a one-time 30-day stay. At the weekend, he received a videotaped message from Tucker pleading with him for a reprieve. Hc has also been inundated by some 2,400 letters asking for clemency.

Few of the letters, however, had come from Texans and political pressure to act was marginal. Tucker's case, the Governor had already stated, should "be treated like any other".



Thus, at about 4pm local time yesterday Tucker was to be taken to a 10ft by 6ft holding cell in the bungalow-type structure that is the execution building inside the Huntsville facilities. There she was to eat her last meal and receive two 30-minute visits, from a spiritual solviser and from her lawyer. Shortly be-fold in on themselves.

fore the appointed hour of 6pm, she was to be walked to the death chamber itself and asked to lie down on the trolley so that intravenous drips could be connected to her arms.

Only once in the 55 executions he has witnessed has there been any trouble in persuading convicts to lie down, said Larry Fitzgerald a prison spokesman. "Everyone else has actually hopped on to the gurney."

The killing of Tucker was to take roughly two minutes, with three substances being injected in quick succession - an anaesthetic to put her to sleep, a muscie relaxant to collapse her lungs and finally a lethal cocktail to stop the heart.

Unlike the firing squad or electric chair, death by injection offers little by way of spectacle; nothing, in fact, except for a sudden, and usually quite noisy gushing of air from the condemned's mouth as the lungs

### Free phone calls if you can bear the ads

THE days of the telephone bill could soon be numbered, with the launch of a service offering customers unlimited access to free phone calls. The only catch is that every few minutes callers have to break off to listen to an advertisement, an innovation which its backers believe could ing weapon.

Energis, the fast-growing phone network, completed a trial of the service before Christmas and is considering going live in a few months time. This is direct advertising with a vengeance. The customer gets instant gratification," said Alistair

The idea, which originated in Sweden a year ago, is deceptively simple. Customers you are a wine lover, and then call a freephone number, then an airline saying they've got key in the phone number they want to dial. The call begins with an advert for anything from local businesses to high through the post and frequently street store chains. The longer thrown straight into the bin.

Henderson from the company.

By Chris Godsmark

subscribers stay on the line, the more adverts they are subjected to, preceded by e warning tone. Energis declined to reveal the companies taking part in the trial, but one possibility was be the ultimate direct market- a recorded message from a pizza parlour which would ask customers to press the keypad if they were feeling hungry. When they hang up, the pizza chain would automatically call them back to take the order.

Though customers have no idea which advert will come up, they are questioned before they join the scheme to find out their age and and interests. You might get an advert for wine if

cheap seats available. Energis says the scheme is an alternative to direct mail sent

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, EYE PIO . CROSSWORDS, P28 AND EYE P9 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE PIZ . FULL CONTENTS, P2

Richard Branson last night called for the dissolution of the Camelot consortium and the establishment of a new National Lottery. He spoke to Andrew Buncombe following his libel battle victory against Guy Snowden and the resignation of the lottery regulator .

More people would play the lottery if it was not run for profit, evidence brought in the libel case had demonstrated, Mr Branson said last night, and suggested it should be renamed the People's Lottery. "The Government had pledged to operate the lottery for no profit. I hope that any backtracking that may have gone on will come to an end. I think that naming it the People's Lottery would give it a fresh start."

Peter Davis.

He feels that in order to restore public faith there must he a fundamental overhaul of the lottery's operation, "Yesterday [Monday] both the regulator, Pe-

uals. That was not the case. GTech were found as guilty as Mr Snowden. If Mr Snowden has to resign then GTech has to step down as well," he said.

"It may be easier, and there is enough ground for doing so, to take the shareholders away altogether, get rid of Camelot and for a period of time let the staff continue to operate it.

"I think to restore public faith GTech has to go and it may be as well to get rid of all the shareholders and dissolve the Camelot consortium."

Snacking on toast and Marmite in the drawing room of his offices in west London, Mr Branson repeated that he no longer wanted to run the lottery. "I still believe that what I do is set up companies, get good people mand get things running. I would be delighted to help, but personally I don't feel they need me. There are plenty of very good people around the world and whether 1 am involved or not is really an irrel-

He said he had been convinced that if the lottery was to continue to be a success the reg- trying to do, it was "very anulator, Peter Davis, had to noying".

the public by saying this was an stand down. "Mr Davis put out argument between two individ- a statement saying what I had said was untrue. I honestly didn't think he could stay on.'

> Mr Branson said that during the libel trial, which he had initiated against Mr Snowden after the American husinessman denied trying to hribe him to drop his hid to run the National Lottery for no profit, he had suffered from a "bad press" campaign launched by his de-

"Was it a coincidence that on the first day of the trial all these private letters between myself and Elton John should suddenly appear?" he said. "There is no doubt that things were being fed to journalists."

Mr Branson, 47, who is to donate his £100,000 damages to charity, said he was used to the backlash his gestures sometimes hrought. "There is no question the times I have been criticised in my life have been for doing things not to make money hut to help the community. If I simply set up companies to make lots of money people would not mind." But he said when the criticism stood in the way of what he was



Final showdown: Peter Davis arriving to meet Chris Smith yesterday Photograph: Reuters

### Crisis meeting as lottery regulator fights to keep job

Peter Davis the lottery regulator resigned last night after a four hour . meeting with the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith. Kim Sengupta looks at the trials and tribulations of Britain's first lottery regulator. -

Peter Davis, they were saying at Whitehall yesterday, had been looking into an abyss, and Chris Smith finally pushed him over. The lottery regulator had gone to meet Mr Smith in a mood of defiance, refusing to resign despite widespread opprobrium over his handling of bribery allegations involving Camelot. As a Commons motion was tabled saying he should go, he maintained: "I am doing the joh I was given to do. I will continue to do that joh".

His £ 84,000-a-year contract had been due to expire in October, and even if he had not resigned vesterday it is thought highly unlikely that it would have been renewed. Either way, the career country's first lottery regulator has come to an inglorious end.

Mr Davis's first and most important job was to decide who were fit and proper persons to

World, and a controlling stake

call December's meeting, during

which the investigators at-

tempted to cross the national

boundaries that normally re-

way Mr Murdoch is behaving,"

said a source close to the in-

vestigation. "The [investiga-

tors] are querying whether he

legitimately makes a loss or not.

"No one is happy with the

strict their operations.

run the lottery, but now he has been deemed unable to regulate it. More than 30 years ago Mr Davis was sixth in the conntry's accountancy exams, but since then he has been closely involved with two of Britain's higgest business failures, Harris Queensway and Lloyd's.

It was therefore something of a surprise when he was named as loftery regulator, and there was further surprise and anger about some of his actions while in the post. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee decided Mr Davis. had made " serious errors of judgement" in his relationship with Glech, a US partner of the consortium Camelot to whomhe awarded the contract.

While he was deciding on the award Mr Davis accepted five free flights from the company, against Whitehall advice. during a business trip to the States in 1994. He explained that he was saving taxpayers' money. The committee also criticised Mr Davis for a social visit to New York financier Carl Menges, the boss of an investment house which has a majorstake in GTech, although it accepted the two men's wives were long-standing friends.

PAC member Alan Williams last night out down a Commons motion asking him to resign.

## Murdoch's juggling outwits taxmen around the world

Saatchi, is scheduled for the peak

Outlining the company's interim

results to the press and City analysts

Mr Booth said: "Sky's digital launch is on

schedule and on budget ... It will be one

of the big consumer product launches of

1998 and will certainly revolutionise the

"The savvy media players are saying this

is a great moment in time and we agree."

"near video on demand" element, which

BSkyB's supremo enthused about the

way we look at television." He added:

Christmas sales period.

An international taskforce of tax investigators from at least four countries is attempting to unravel Rupert Murdoch's labyrinthine business affairs in a bid to make him pay more tax. Steve Boggon shows how the Murdoch media empire has so far been able - quite legally - to outwit the taxman.

You don't get to be the planet's biggest media mogul by being generous with your tax returns, hut Rupert Murdoch makes his fellow corporate giants appear positively charitable.

A recent comparison of media empires showed that while most of his competitors paid

paid just 7.8 per cent worldwide. An exhaustive investigation

by The Independent in 1995 showed that in the previous 10 years News International, News Corp's UK arm, had paid only £11.74m tax on profits of nearly £1hn - a rate of just 1.2 per cent when corporation tax was running at 33 per cent.

In comparison, the Telegraph group had paid 29 per cent tax, the Mirror Group 20 per cent and United News and Media, owners of the Express titles, 29 per cent.

Now, however, the tax authorities internationally have had enough. The Independent has learnt that senior revenue investigators from the United States, the UK, Australia and Canada met in Sydney in December to examine Mr Murdoch's international network

taxes at anything up to 32.5 per of tax avoidance. They were cent, Mr Murdoch's News Corp stung into action by last year's results, in which News Corp reported paying worldwide taxes of \$103m (£62.42m) on operating profits of \$1.32hn (£800m), a rate of just 7.8 per cent. In a recent analysis of

BSkyB outlined its timetable for the

digital TV revolution yesterday, but

revealed little about precisely what it

plans to serve up to the viewing public

Cautiously unveiling plans for its

digital satellite service yesterday, BSkyB

"The meaningful launch will be in the

admitted that its June launch will be a

fourth quarter," said Mark Booth, the

company's chief executive, confirming

that a major marketing push, to be

devised by advertising agency M&C

fairly modest affair.

tions, the Washington Post discovered a huge gap between Mr Murdoch's company payments

The Walt Disney corporation paid 28 per cent tax; Viacom Inc, parent company of MTV and Paramount Pictures. paid 22 per cent; and Time News Corp's taxation compared Warner, which is similar in size with similar media corpora-

and make-up to News Corp. paid 17 per cent taxes.

So how does Mr Murdoch do it? His success in legally avoiding taxation lies in the truly global nature of his business interests. By shifting profits and losses, by making loans between companies, by claiming tax-relief on interest repay-

ments, by channelling profits through subsidiaries in offshore tax havens and by taking advantage of currency fluctuations his accountants can turn profits into apparent losses.

His empire at the end of last

year comprised 789 husinesses in 52 countries from Australia and Mauritius to Britain and

nents and a satellite network that covers much of Europe, Satellite channel announces digital TY revolution — quietly Asia and America. It was the breadth of Mr Murpromises to bring the equivalent of a doch's interests that prompted the Anstralian tax authorities to multiplex onema into our living rooms. A

> Interactive home shopping and home banking will also be available from June. Mr Booth said.

The first set-top boxes will hit the high street stores in June, when they are expected to retail for around £200. — Rob Brown, Media Editor

selection of hit movies will be constantly

replayed at 30 minute intervals, allowing

watch what they want when they want."

digital satellite subscribers "the chance to

Cuba, In America, News Corp's A plan has been put into place to tackle his empire. portfolio includes 22 television stations, the huge Fox broadcast The problem the tax authorities have with Murdoch is network and the 20th Century Fox movie studios. In the UK, that he has all the facts about it owns the Times and Sunday everything in his empire but if 'a Times, the Sun and News of the you are an investigator in the

the UK business; if you are an. in BskyB. There are also a myriad titles across five contiinvestigator in the US, then you can only look at the US end." It is understood the task force will examine three ways

UK, you can only find out about

in which News Corp manipulates its tax affairs: Tax relief claimed on debt in-

terest repayments. The differences in ing principles in the various countries in which tax returns

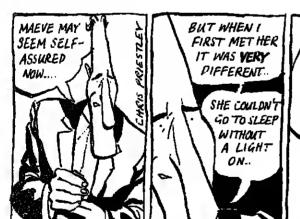
are filed. News Corp's use of offshore tax havens. Its annual tax bill is reduced by channelling profits through subsidiaries in no-tax or low-tax havens such as the Cayman Islands.

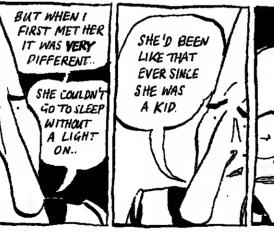
7.30 FOR 8

by Chris Priestley

ZITS

by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman











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Britain's biggest home shopping company yesterday made a £l.6bn takeover bid for Argos, the high street catalogue retailer.

The move is part of a trend towards "multichannel" retailing under which shopping companies will target consumers using a variety of methods including high street shops, catalogues and new media such as interactive television. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports.

The takeover offer has come from Great Universal Stores. which is best known as a traditional operator of "big bonk" catalogues such as Kay's and Choice as well as the Burberry brand of upmarket cluthing.

One of the key reasons behind its Argos hid, is that GUS wants to target customers using as many different methods as possible. It is already Britain's market leader in catalogue shopping. If it succeeds in buying Argos it will control 400 shops up and down the couotry and be able to assemble an even better database of customers' shopping habits.

It is also in talks with television companies aboot selling its goods via televisioo channels as the digital television era gets under way later this year.

"Most retailers will be multi-channel," says Lord Wolfson, chairman of GUS. "They are all simply ways of communicating with customers and giving them the widest possible choice."

Many retailers are adopting similar strategies. Asda is keeo to launch its own televisioo channel - it wants to use a seriously ill and is undergoing QVC-style format to sell its a course of treatment.

noo-food ranges - and Littlewoods is trying to assemble a consortium of retailers to run a TV channel, possibly to coincide with the launch of digital television later this year.

Marks & Spencer is moving into mail-order shopping with its clothing ranges. The Burtoo Group, which is oow known as Arcadia and owns chain stores like Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins and Principles, has launched a range of catalogues for each of its main trading formats. Meanwhile a host of retailers are already successfully selling their products over the Internet.

Industry experts suggest that "cash rich, time poor" consumers will increasingly be willing to pay a little extra for the convenience of home shop-

Argos represents a good target for a catalogue group seeking high street exposure. Its 400 shops tend to be slightly nff the high street but still attract millions of shappers with its offer of top hrand names at low prices. It has a strong brand name and is also a "destination shop" for anyone seeking a new kettle or toys for Christmas. But the group has been under pressure recently as rivals have eaten away at its key markets of toys, jewellery and small electrical appliances.

Analysts have suggested that while Argos was a popular place to shop during the recessioo because nf its lnw prices, some custnmers have been deterred by its functional shops and relatively low levels of service. Some have also criticised the system of purchasing under which customers have to fill in order forms. queue to pay and then queue again at another counter to collect the item.

Argos, meanwhile, has rejected the GUS hid as "opportunistic." It is in an awkward positioo as its chief executive is







Michael Chow portrayed: Top, Keith Haring's M Chow as Green Prawn in a Bowl of Noodle (1986); left, Double Happiness Buddha signed and marked with dollar signs by Andy Warhol (1982); right, photograph by Francesco Scavullo (1978)

## Chow vain? Caterer to the stars celebrates a life in woks of art

Michael Chow, the restaurateur, is celebrating 30 years of serving Chinese food to celebrities by putting his valuable collection of pop-art portraits of himself on display.

Louise Jury examines how Mr Chow is depicted by Andy Warhol, David Hockney and friends.

In one of the most unusual art collections of recent times, the face of Mr Chow stares out in the distinctive styles of the artists who socialised at his eponymous restaurants. Some were commissioned

by Michael Chow himself, others really were exchanged for dinner, either in the nriginal Knightsbridge Mr Chow or those he opened later in New York and Los Angeles. Keith Haring depicted Mr Chow as a prawn in the artist's favourite dish, green prawn in a bowl of noodle. There is a self-portrait photograph, and photos by Helmut Newton who wrote on one: "You stick to the ocodles and I take the snaps! Love Helmnt".

An even looger list nf artists from Francis Bacoo to Howard Hodgkin doodled in the "artist book" which was kept in the restaurants and features in the film Basquiat - made last year - in which David Bowie played Andy Warhol.

Now, in an extraordinary hlitz of publicity, the collectioo of around 30 works is being brought together from his home and restaurants for the first time to mark three decades in business.

This mooth it is on display in Los Angeles. Next October it comes to the Loodoo gallery of old friend James Mayor where it will he launched with a suitably starpacked party. In a similarly immodest accompanying gesture, celebratory postcards list

the stars from Muhammad Ali tn ZZ Top whn have supped chez Chow.

When the first restaurant opened for husioess in Knightshridge, south-west Londoo, oo Valentine's Day 1968, Mr Chow was credited with merging east and west, serving Peking cuisine to celebrities who included Lauren Bacall, Marlon Brando, John Lenooo and Mae West in meticulnusly designed surroundings.

He weot on to become a celebrity himself, marrying fnur times including once to the model Tina Chow, who later died from Aids, and acting in the James Bond film You Only Live Twice. Now m his 60th year, he lives in Los Angeles.

Philippe Garner, a Sotheby's expert in 20th-ceotury decorative art, became Mr Chow's friend when the restaurateur was one of the great collectors of art deco furniture and he has written the introduction to the catalogue of the collection. He insisted yesterday that Michael Chow was far from the egocentric that having so many portraits might suggest.

"It's not like that because he has got a great sense of humour. He was very determined huilding the collection, but he managed to do it with a certain wit and a certain flair that defuses any preteotiousness and pomposity," Mr Garner said.

In every case they have grown nut of either friendship nr a mutual respect. I don't think he's ever gnoe cold to an artist he doesn't knnw."

A spokeswoman for Mr Chow said that he had always had a great affinity with artists. "Right from the heginning, artists would paint in exchaoge for dinner. I wouldn't like to put a value oo the collection hut it's very valuable," she said.

Asked whether it did oot appear somewhat egotistical to have so many portraits of himself, the said. He's a most self-effacing men. It's not really an ego trip at all."

## Tying the knot in the dome of delight

Couples may be able to exchange millennial wedding vows in Peter Mandelson's dome, it. was revealed yesterday. But. Fran Abrams reports, buildings licensed for civil weddings must be both dignified and permanent. Will the Greenwich exhibition fit the bill?

There will be surfball games. There will be the chance to scramble inside a huge human body. And now - maybe -

there will be nuptials. The New Millennium Experience Company, in charge of the dome, has confirmed it is thinking of setting aside a part nf its building for couples who want a novel place to tie the kont.

Under new rules introduced in 1995, the owners of "seemly" buildings can apply to councils for permission to host weddings. The only question is whether a 1000ft-wide Tefloocoated tent is a suitably sombre setting for something as serious

A spnkesman for the NMEC said that it had decided to look into the possibility after it was suggested in a letter from Richard Heller, a Mail on Sunday columnist.

have decided to check out what the situation is for the licensing of oon-religious buildings and non-register offices for weddings. But unthing has moved oo it yet," he said.

that it is in fact fairly simple.

objections to be made.

as matrimuny. "Suitable premises may in-

"As a result of his letter we

He added that the exhibition's organisers must ensure the correct legal process was followed. Guidance published by the Registrar General show

The owner of a suitable huilding must simply apply to his or her local authority, leaving time for an inspection and a 21-day grace period to allow

However, the criteria for the type of building that can be used raises mure questions. Premises must "observe the dignity of the occasion," the guidance

clude hotels, stately homes, civic huildings and other similarly prestigious premises. This means that marriages will not be able to take place in the open air, in a tent, marquee or any other temporary structure."

So, is a dome with a 25-year lifespan permanent enough for marriage? A spokeswoman for its local authority, the London Burough of Greenwich, thought it probably would be. "A civil ceremony is some-

thing quite serious and we

wouldn't want anything frivolous, but if it was a suitable proposal we would look at it. We can't see any problem regarding the temporary nature of the building," she said.

Discussions are continuing on the provisinn of a religious site within the dome, but this will be separate from any place set aside for secular weddings. The NMEC's spokesman

said that the Lambeth Group, a committee of advisers overseen by the Archbishop of Canterbury, had said that it would be difficult to provide a church, chapel or temple within the dome. Any such site would need to he multi-faith and there was no precedent for a church which embraced Judaism, Christianity, Islam and the Hindu and Sikh religions. Instead, it was likely that a room would be set aside for prayer and quiet reflection by people of all faiths.



Photomontage: Junathan Anstee Bliss under the Dome?

### Agony aunt gets it wrong over gays

Atkins, the newspaper agnny aunt and vicar's wife, claimed that "a gay man is 17 times more likely to be a paedophile than a straight man" has been criticised by the Press Complaints Commission.

The polemic, published in the Sun, was judged to have failed to distinguish between comment, conjecture and fact. Seven people had complained to the commission.

Ms Atkins, who oormally writes for the Daily Telegraph, first shot to national prominence when she used Radio 4's "Thought for the Day" slot to accuse the Church of England. of being soft on gays.

She and her clergyman husband, Shaun, were also in the news receotly when their 12year-old daughter disappeared

An article in which Anne from their home in south-west London. She was reunited with her parents 36 hours later.

Both Ms Atkins and the Sun had stood by her recent offending article, citing academic research tn support the assertions. But the complainants maintained that she had drawn upon American studies which were flawed.

They were also outraged by her suggestion that "the life expectancy of a gay man without HIV is a shocking 43 years". A government written answer confirmed that such a statistic had no official foundation since a person's sexuality is not recorded at death registratinn.

The Sun had offered to publish a clarification, but this was rejected by the commission as inadequate.

--- Rob Brown, Media Editor

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## Blair intervention saves Barts from closure

Yesterday's decision to save St Bartholomew's hospital, Britain's oldest. was hailed as a triumph by some and an act of political cowardice by others. Jeremy Laurance and Anthony Bevins chart the bitter disagreements that lay behind the

The decision to save Barts was taken by Tony Blair in the face of opposition from the Treasury and some of his personal advisers, it emerged yesterday.

The Prime Minister, whose three children were born at the hospital, pledged shortly after he took over as Labour leader that the facilities at Barts should be "preserved forever".

Ignoring protests that running two teaching hospitals in one of the most deprived areas of the country would swallow resources needed for GP and community care, he answered an appeal from Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health. that in the 50th anniversary year of the NHS a Labour government could not close one of the world's best-known hospitals.

Mr Dobson announced in the Commons yesterday that Barts would continue providing its current range of specialist services for seven to eight years while a new 900-bed hospital is the Royal London hospital.

It would then become a specialist centre for heart and cancer patients similar to the Royal Marsden and Royal Brompton hospitals in west London. The decision is in line with recommendations in the review of London's health services, commissioned by the Government last June and published yesterday.

Consultants and patients at Barts were delighted that the five-year campaign to save it had succeeded, hut GPs warned that it could spell disaster for the local community.

Mike Besser, professor of spearheaded the campaign in its day with Brian Sedgemore, the local MP. "It is a great day. Barts



built on the Whitechapel site of Continuing care: A nurse takes a patient's blood pressure at St Batholomew's hospital which is now facing a much brighter future

Photograph: Tom Pilston

The hospital, founded in 1123, has survived an attempt by Henry VIII to sell it off. German bombs during the war, and now the 1993 decision of the previous government to axe it following the Tomlinson review of London's health services. The accident and emergency department was closed in 1995.

The Tomlinson review concluded that London had too many hospital beds compared with the rest of the country and recommended 2,500 should close. Because of Barts' locamedicine at the hospital who tion, between Guys to the south, the Royal London to the east carly stages, celebrated yester- and University College to the west, it became the target.

president of the Royal College of Physicians, has concluded that London is no longer overbedded. Mr Dobson told the Commons: "The Government has therefore abandooed the presumption we inherited from our predecessors that London is overprovided with acute hospital heds. As a result any future changes in bed numbers will be in line with those in

The saving of Barts is, however, the second-best of two options put forward in the review. The first option, which the review panel describe as "the favoured solution clinically" would involve closing Barts and Hospitals Trust, which favoured The new review, chaired by centralising its facilities in a closing Barts, said it had been eswill be here forever," he said. Sir Leslie Turnberg, former new 1,200-bed hospital on the timated at an extra £26m a year.

the rest of the country."

Whitechapel site. However, the panel members feared that a new bospital of that size, which would have been the largest to be built in Europe for 20 years, was unrealistic. They feared that, if it were scaled down and Barts was still closed, that would be the "worst possible outcome".

To avoid this they proposed the two-site solution, retaining Barts as a specialist hospital. But they warn: The key questioo is how much more expensive would it be to run a two-site versus a one-site operatioo?"

No figures were forthcoming from ministers, yesterday, but a spokeswoman for the Royal

### £140m boost for health care in London

Two members of the five strong London the other recommendations of the review. review panel are understood to have had second thoughts after they agreed the final report last November. Although they put their names to the recommendation that Barts should close they later said they replaced by a community hospital. In east believed the extra cost of maintaining Barts would be better invested in GP and mental health services in the capital which are among the worst in the country.

Yesterday, Frank Dobson recognised their concerns by announcing an extra £140m for those services over the next four years, with £30m allocated next year, although this will not be new money and will be taken from elsewhere in the NHS budget. He added that he was accepting all

The panel looked at hospitals across the capital but with particular emphasis on three, including Barts. In south-west London, Queen Mary's hospital is to be London, it favoured developing a new hospital at Oldchurch hospital, rather than Harold Wood.

Mr Dobson said the proposals "provide a firm foundation for a 10-year programme to provide London with a modern and dependable health service". But John Maples, the Tories' health spokesman, said: "This is not saving Barts, but saving face for Labour."

— Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

### Boys, 10, cleared of rape

Two 10-year-old boys accused of raping a nine-year-old girl were cleared yesterday. The Old Bailey jury acquitted the two boys, who were believed to have been Britain's youngest rape defendants, after a direction on the evidence by the judge, Mrs Justice Bracewell.

Another 10-year-old boy was also cleared of indecent assault in the alleged attack at the boys' primary school in May last year.

Mrs Justice Bracewell told the jury that there was a "two-fold" reason for directing that there was no evidence for them to consider over the rape allegations.

One was that in the case of one of the boys accused of rape, the alleged victim "did not positively identify him". More fundamentally, said the judge, was the fact that during a police interview with the girl a police officer had "asked a question that was both leading and wholly improper, which in effect put words into the girl's

A third boy alleged to have raped her could not be prosecuted as he was just nine at the time and under the age of criminal responsibility.

The two boys cleared of rape and a fourth boy, an 11-year-old cousin of the alleged victim, face a charge of indecent assault and trial continues. All defendants had denied all the charges.

### Prescott calls for pedal power

Ministers have been told to "get on your bike" by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of environment, transport and the regions.

MPs were told yesterday that ministers have been urged in "green guidelines" by the Deputy Prime Minister's department to use public transport for business wherever possible and to walk or use their cycles for short dis-

Unfortunately for the Government's green image, officials at the department could not think of a single minister who currently rides a hike to

That is in marked contrast to the Tories, who had the bicycling baronet, Sir George Young, the former transport minister, and David Willetts, a former whip, in the front row of Whitehall push-bikers.

There may be more MPs taking to their hikes. The senior salaries review body last week recommended that MPs should be awarded a bicycle allowance to encourage them to leave their cars in the garage for constituency business

### Carriers take Whitehall to court over noise limits at airports

Government proposals to turn Heathrow into the quietest major airport in the world are to be challenged by carriers. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, reports on the battle to keep Britain's skies quiet.

The world's higgest airlines announced a High Court challenge yesterday against craft leaving from Heathrow, Gatwick and

Robert Ayling, the chief executive of IATA. Mr Gaillard said that IATA lawyers

its would cost the flag carrier £230m a year week. - a third of its profits.

According to the directors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the moves would see Paris and Madrid replacing Heathrow as London's main international airport. Last year Heathrow handled more than 56 million passengers in 12 months.

"We have been to see ministers in Eutough new government noise limits for air- rope and they have listened. The British government were completely unsympathetic," said William Gaillard, a director of

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British Airways, has already warned min- would be seeking leave for a judicial review isters that the controversial proposed lim- of the Government's proposals later this

The new limits, put forward in a consultation paper last November, would force passenger jets to be at least three decibels quicter than at present during the day. and only emit 87 decibels at night.

"It is technically unfeasible," said Mr Gaillard. "No plane can meet these targets not even the latest jets."

Mr Gaillard added that the lower limits would rule out many airlines' most profitable services - which see jets leaving fully loaded from Heathrow to destinations in Asia and South America.

IATA says that airlines will instead divert aircraft to European capitals and then see passengers taking smaller, quieter

planes to London "There is plenty of space at other European hubs. Madrid has the gn-ahead for five runways and Paris for foor," said Mr

Airlines have already delayed the introduction of the limits, which were first proposed in 1996. In April last year, IATA won a high court case which forced ministers to

reconsider their original plans. Ayling, who advises the Government on the Millengium Dome and who is personally

close to the Prime Minister, transport ministers have refused to budge. The industry has pointed out that the only aircraft which could meet the new limits are the latest Boeing 777s - which currently ferry passengers

to the Caribbean and the Middle East. "These limits would mean that aircraft like the jumbo [Boeing 747] would be unsuitable to fly with the current passenger numbers they carry," said Max Kingsley-Jones, commercial aviation editor of Flight Magazine.

The Government remains unmoved. But despite vigorous lobbying from Mr "Our position has not changed from the previous government's." said a spokesman for the Department of the Environment.

### W African gangs using Internet

West African organised criminals are using the Internet to obtain tens of thousands of names and addresses as targets for fraud, it emerged yesterday.

MI5 and MI6 are helping crackdown on the criminals, who are mainly Nigerian, responsible for an estimated £3.5bn of fraud in the UK every year as well as drug trafficking.

The National Criminal Intelligence Service has set up a special section to combat the criminals who sent an estimated 1 million letters which seek to con individuals and companies out of --- Jason Bennetto

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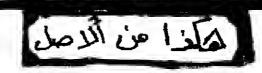
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## Cool Britannia begins to go cold on trendy Blair

Has Cool Britannia turned its back on Blair? A leading style guru has dismissed Labour's attempts to schmooze with the glitterati, while one of Britain's leading theatrical figures has again attacked Labour for not supporting the arts. Fron Abroms and David Lister report on dissent among those whom Blair would like to call his own.

In a bizarre twist of events, the head of a top fashion house gave a lecture to a right-wing thinktank last night to complain that the Prime Minister was trying too hard to be trendy.

Wayne Hemingway, chairman of Red or Dead, told the Social Market Foundation that attempts to "rebrand" Britain as the epicentre of coolness were just "sad."

By simply inviting a few (mostly naff) pop stars and comedians to drinkies et Number Ten, the very people Blair is trying to impress will be turned off," he said. "It brings to mind those sad pictures of Harold Wilson with the Beatles and it certainly didn't enamour Harold Wilson to British youth."

Showing "corny repeated pictures of raving at the Ministry of Sound" to denote coolness was the 1990s equivalent of "god-awful" 1970s postcards of King's Road punks, he added. Most of Labour's young MPs were less youthful than his grandmother, and she died three years ago.

"Forward-thinking can live side-by-side with heritage. Let the parties of retired middle Americans with their sad anoraks and check slacks soak up our heritage while their focus groups.

grandchildren discover a more youthful Britain," he suggested. Mr Hemingway believes

there is a widespread backlash egainst the Labour government in the creative industries. Posing for photocalls is all very well, but nothing is being offered in return, he told The Independent.

"At the moment we are seeing absolutely tons of publicity saying 'Aren't I cool and trendy. there's no other government as cool and trendy in the world." They have got to start proving



Labour have got to start proving there is more substance abart from drinkies at No 10' Wayne Hemingway

it. It's very early days for Labour and we want them to succeed, but they've got to start proving there is some substance apart from drinkies at Number Ten."

Mr Hemingway's assault on new Labour's street cred is the latest in a string of attacks from the world of fashion, design and pop and the theatre.

First, Stephen Bayley resigned as creative director of the Millennium Dome project and took the Government to task for market-testing its ideas by

Then last Sunday Alan McGee, the founder of Creation Records and a £50,000 donor to Labour before the clection, told the Observer that Tony Blair was "all surface".

Ten days ago Sir Peter Hall, the theatre director, used an awards ceremony attended by Chris Smith, Secretary of state for Culture, Media and Sport, to bitterly attack the Government's Arts Council funding cut. Yesterday, Sir Peter accused the Government of "dumbing down Britain" by minimising arts teaching in primary schools. He made his remarks as he launched the theatrical world's own education initiative at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in the West End of London

"The other thing the Government has done is take music, art and drama off the priority list in primary schools, which I think is awful. This awful thing will lead to the dumbing down of the nation. So we shan't need any art galleries, theatres or opera houses, which of course would be a great benefit from e cost-savings point of view," he told an audience of actors and supporters.

Twelve leading directors and actors are giving their services free to offer talks and masterclasses to drama students and secondary school pupils hoping to enter the profession.

Afterwards Sir Peter said Labour's arts policy filled him with "utter dismay". A friendly peer had asked him "not to rock the boat", he disclosed. "But I said 'Where is the boat? I don't see a boat labelled Labour arts policy"."

It was important young people should have no illusions about life in the theatre, he said, adding: "Being in the theatre isn't about glamour, easy options and easy money - it's about hard work, crucial discipline and often no money at all."





Wheels for women: The launch issue of Nuts about Motoring and (right) a Sixties advertisement for the Mini

## Car magazine puts women in the driving seat for first time

Britain's first motoring magazine for women is to be launched in the spring. Clare Gamer gets a test drive.

In 1996, more women than men aged between 18 and 25 bought new cars. By 1999 the industry expects women between 18 and 40 to be the dominant consumers in the car market. Women buy cars, love their cars, but they do not read about cars, Nuts about Motoring, the forthcoming femalefriendly motoring magazine,

believes it has spotted a gap in the market.

Helen Mound, the editor. is planning to "stick two perfeetly manieured fingers up at magazines which rave on about cars that snap knicker elastic at five paces and compare automotive curves with Daryl Hannah's curves". She says that she is catering for people who "enjoy motoring as motorisis, not as testosterone-driven imbeciles".

Nuts about Motoring hopes to attract around 90,000 female readers who are alienated by the existing car press. "Unimaginative sexual innu-

ridicule or merely dig at the fairer sex have been far 100 easy for the motoring press since the first car company stuck a dolly bird on its new car in the Fifties," said Ms Mound, whose husband edits the magazine Performance Cur. You know, a girl on the bonnet of a big, red sports car is crotic, but you know, a girl

sight more erotic." The magazine is aimed at car-owning female drivers between 21 and 40. The average reader would own a one-yearold car worth £8,000-£12,000. co-presenter of BBC2's mo-

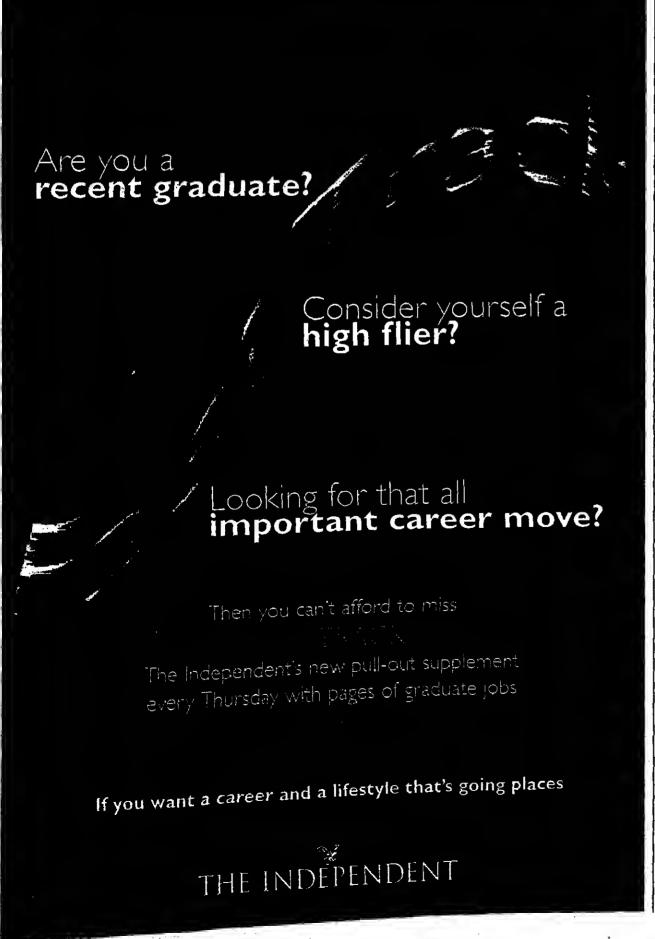
driving the same car is a damn

endoes designed to insult, but aspires to exchange it in due course for one worth £15,000-30,000. She favours style and speed of cars, but is "smart with her money". She enjoys driving and sees herself as competent behind the wheel. She is likely to be independent - the mimber of single women aged 18 to 40 rose from 18 to 28 per cent from 1980 to 1990 - and successful - 45 per cent of female graduates find work within six months compared with 40

per cent of men. Among the contributors will be Vicki Butler-Henderson. toring programme Top Gear, with a column "From lipstick to dipstick.

Angela Giveon, the magazine's managing editor, said: "We know the market. We make no apologies about being female. We intend to cover interesting topics and teach women the art of negotiation, It is not patronising. It will save them money.

"A car is the second biggest purchase a woman makes after her home. Men are expected to know about these things, but women haven't got the media to address them," Ms



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## Blair: Ulster killings may go on even after settlement

The possibility of Northern Ireland extremists continuing their killing, even after a political settlement has been agreed, is built into the Government's strategic thinking on the peace process. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports Tony Blair's views.

The May deadlice for agreement on the Northern Ireland peace process remains "realistic", and the Government was contiouiog to work towards it, the Prime Minister's official spokesman said yesterday.

One the eve of his visit to Washington, Londoo that Presideot Clintoo had been "as solid as a rock" in his support for the peace process, and relations with the Republic of Ireland had never been better.

The Prime Minister told the Washington Post that he was more optimistic than he had been a week ago, though he was careful oot to bank oo a breakthrough.

"It would be an immense historical achievement if we were to lay to rest hundreds of years of bloodshed and division," he said, "but I remain stubbornly optimistic [that] it is possible to do so, but that may just be my nature rather than reality ..."

Mr Blair gave a remarkably frank rundown oo the process in his briefing with the American correspondents. "I think the two hig things really are, first, to get an outline that is a matter of detailed negotiation that on working at the process ...

is now under way. That is the next big juncture for people making their choices. And the second thing is clearly that you then put that in a referendum to the people of Northern Ireland. There will be a referendum in the Republic of Ireland, too.

" It is not a statement of the obvious that if you get both those things dooe, you are through and home and dry. But I think that if those two things are done, it becomes virtually impossible for anyone to argue that the will of the people has oot beeo clear."

However, the Prime Minister then added; "If you manage to do that, it doesn't avoid the situation that a few extremists get back oo to killing people, you can never tell; the history of Northern Ireland is that people are prepared to do that Mr Blair told American correspondents in irrespective of whether there is any popular support for what they are doing at all.

"But I think it makes it very difficult for anyone who is engaged in violence to achieve any form of respectability once these two things have happeoed,

"It is important to realise that that is a very clear strategic objective; that you have got to get to the stage where you have built such a strong set of democratic ramparts, if you like, around the situation there, that they cannot be stormed any longer by fanatics who want to wage war on the democratic process."

As for the recent spate of killings, Mr Blair said: "It is very difficult to have any policy of law enforcement that can deal with a situation where somebody just walks up to a taxi cab rank and shoots dead the first taxi driver they see. What do you do with agreement of a lasting settlement and people like that? We have just got to keep



Mo Mowlam at a press call after the exclusion from the London talks of the Ulster Democratic Party of moving somewhere else for ing to the polar bears.

## Mowlam's dream of talks with no press

Mo Mowlam would like to take Gerry Adams, David Trimble and the other Ulster leaders to a remote island to try and reach a peace settlement. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports that a venue in

Scandinavia is more likely.

More progress could be made if the various party leaders were to sit down with each other miles away from the nearest television camera, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland believes

The Dayton, Ohio, peace talks which brought the warring factions together over Bosnia could become a model for the multi-party negotiations oo a lasting peace settlement for Northern Ireland.

The parties were taken to an airbase in Ohio in 1995 to reach a settlement, and Ms Mowlam believes that something similar could be good for the multi-party talks on Ulster.

But the problem is where should she take them to get away from the press?

Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, has suggested they should hold the final round of talks in a ocutral country, such as Finland of Austria. Norway has also been suggested, "He is keen on the possibility the final session when you get down to real negotiations," said

a Dublin source. "There is a feeling around that if you lock them up in the same room, you can make

Ms Mowlam became convinced during the three days when the talks switched to London that the press was becoming one of the obstacles to making progress towards agreemeot between the parties. The SDLP delegation also complained that the press were becoming part of the problem.

In the privacy of the negotiating room at Lancaster House, the party leaders dropped their public animosity and got down to business.

But after each session, each of the parties would brief the press against the others at the talks. Gerry Adams claimed that Keo Maginnis, a member of Mr Trimble's team, had refused to speak to him, saying: "I doo't speak to murderers.

Ms Mowlam felt the talks had gone well, but the impressioo in much of the live television coverage was that they were going badly. She has privately felt exasperated at the "bandstanding" of the parties for the benefit of the cameras.

The talks are due to reconvene in a formight in Dublin. Ms Mowlam has joked about hosting the final talks on an island in the Arctic hut that would not stop the Ulster leaders postur-

### Armed forces will be exempt from the minimum wage

the minimum wage, the industry minister Ian McCartney announced yesterday.

The move represented a defeat for the Department of Trade and lodustry in the face of demands from the Ministry of Defeoce that soldiers, sailors and airmen should be treated as exceptional cases.

As The Independent reported last Deto the claims. It feared that if the forces were nounce details of the exemption soon.

If you want a PC with the

The armed forces are to be excluded from allowed to opt out then other groups would demand similar treatment.

Three weeks ago the Presideot of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, wrote to the Conservative industry spokesman John Redwood to confirm that the Bill would cover "all workers in the UK above compulsory school age". But yesterday, Mr McCartney told the standing committee oo the National cember, the DTI put up a strong resistance Minimum Wage Bill that he expected to an-

to allocate ao hourly minimum to those in persoocel. the forces because they were paid a daily rate 365 days a year, reflecting the fact that they were always available for duty. Similar exemptions already existed in the United States and some other European

A spokesman for the DTI confirmed

MoD officials said that it would be hard the "unique circumstances" of serving Beckett has been humiliated by the Sec-

The Government withdrew a clause oo serving personnel from the committee stage discussions of the Bill so that MPs could have more time to debate it later, a Government spokesman said.

Mr Redwood said that the announcement represented a victory for new Labour that the Government had put down over old Labour. "Why is a Tommy out an amendment to the Bill because of worth the minimum wage?" he asked. "Mrs

retary of State for Defence. She did oot wish to exempt our troops but she's been forced to do so.

"This will oot be the last retreat she is going to make over this dangerous terrain,"

Diane Abbott, the Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, described the development as "worrying." "Ooce you allow an exemption you are

opening the door to a flood of others," she

David Chidgey, Liberal Democrat trade spokesman, said: "We oeed to consider the armed forces as a separate issue but the fact that the Government is coming to the committee at a late stage to put forward a retimetabling shows that they have not thought this through in advance."

--- Fran Abrams. Political Correspondent

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THE INDEPENDENT

## £10 Conras lunch

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 18th; the following establishments are offering readers a two course function early evening supper follows:

### How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be primed every days unit, urday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting your self-as independent diner. On your arrival at the restaurant you should present your collect interto qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The takens valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To commune to particulate and simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tony strops on presentation of the token.





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The independent offer is available following restaurants: Bluebird 350 King's Road, London, SVX3 12.49

Lunch (2noon - 3pm, early evening sup Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Criti 360 Stat Tennes London SE 276

und 12noon - 3pm, early evening supper Spin - 7pm Mezzo 100 Wardour Street, Izandon, VALV REE

0171 314 4000 Lunch (2000) - 3pm, early evening supper opin - 7pm, doesd Saturday functions, open Sonday (3pm - 4pm -

Quagtino's 16 Bury Street, St James's foreign, SWLY 64

Curich J Zhoon - 3pm, early evening supper 5, 20pm - 6, 30pm Zinc Bar & Grill: 21 Heddon Street, fondon WIR 705 017+255 8899

The special 3 course menu is available between: 12 room and 7 pm between Monday and Wednesday the offer is extended until 1 prin

The offer is available 7 days a week at all six cestaurants Closed from Spin on Sunday . Offerend analysis after Gent on Person

Prophets of gloom

confounded

management chief of the

November 1997, lt. did.

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world-wide, but not this much — it's already greater than we'd anticipate," Dr Geoffrey Jenkins of the Meteorological Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction, May 1997.

"Our climate is inherently capricious, but lately it does seem to have been moving towards the extremes of its range." - Terry Marsh, of the Institute of Hydrology, April 1997.

**△ CITROËN** 

Photograph: Brian Harris

## Drought warning turns into a damp squib as water levels return

water is no longer in

Schoon, Environment

Correspondent.

average rainfall.

short supply, says Nicholas

per cent of the month's long-term

Seven of the past 12 months

have had above-average rainfall.

In the year up to the end of Jan-

uary, Meteorological Office

Wales have had 3 per cent - above an average year's rainfall.

The rain has returned almost

everywhere. Only one region,

the rainy North-west, has had

One year's rainfall

England and Wates, Feb 97 - Jan 98

1187

842

1185

723

North West

Sevent Trent

South West

Southern

Thames

records show that England and

But that was the end of it.

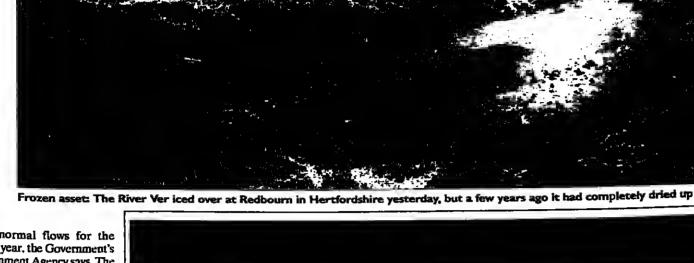
Across England, a year of above-average rainfall has ended the drought, leaving reservoirs brimful, rivers with healthy flows and water tables rising. Even the water companies came There's no doubt that the close to accepting that

With hindsight, the drought cracked last February when England and Wales had nearly half as much above the average rainfall for that month. That followed a remarkably dry January when to normal everywhere. the clouds delivered a meagre 17

In some places - such as Gloucestershire - they are now of year. But there are a few

None the less, nearly 3 milhose-pipe or sprinkler bans, or both. Southern Water said it was "almost certain" to lift its sprinkier ban covering 800,000 people in parts of East and West

Water, nor Sutton and East Surrey Water, in south London, have any short-term plans to lift their bans, which cover 1.7 million people and 270,000 respectively. Both said groundwater sources they relied on were still extremely low for the time of year.



above-normal flows for the time of year, the Government's Environment Agency says. The majority of the water companies are reporting that their reservoirs are fuller than usual for this time of year, with droughtprone Southern saying its reservoirs are 100 per cent full.

substantial rainfall has brought to an end the historic, 30 months dry period," said a spokesman for the Water Services Association, which represents nine of the 10 big water companies. But it is still appealing for customers not to use water wastefully, and says that it is hoping for the next three months to have average or above-average rainfall in order for groundwater levels to return

well above average for the time places where the water table in the chalk aquifers is still far below its normal level for late winter, including Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Norfolk. "The drought is now reduced to a few pockets," said Terry Marsh, who monitors water resources for the Institute of Hydrology in Wallingford.

less than its average yearly rainfall over the past 12 months. tion people are still covered by Most rivers have normal or Raiofall %, average mun annual raiofall Sussex within weeks. Neither Essex and Suffolk

## Ministers delay ban on raw milk

. 101.

Moves to ban the sale of raw milk have been delayed, the Government has announced. Heavy representation by industry and consumers has forced the Ministry of Agriculture to put off its decision. Glenda Cooper, Consumer Affairs Correspondent reports.

The Government's proposal to ban the sale of raw cows' milk has been postponed after ministers decided to extend the consultation period.

The decision was taken after the ministry received requests from many small businesses to extend it, blaming the Christmas break for making it difficult for farmers to comment. The ministry said it was extending the consultation period on the proposed ban by three weeks so the new deadline for comments will be 24 February.

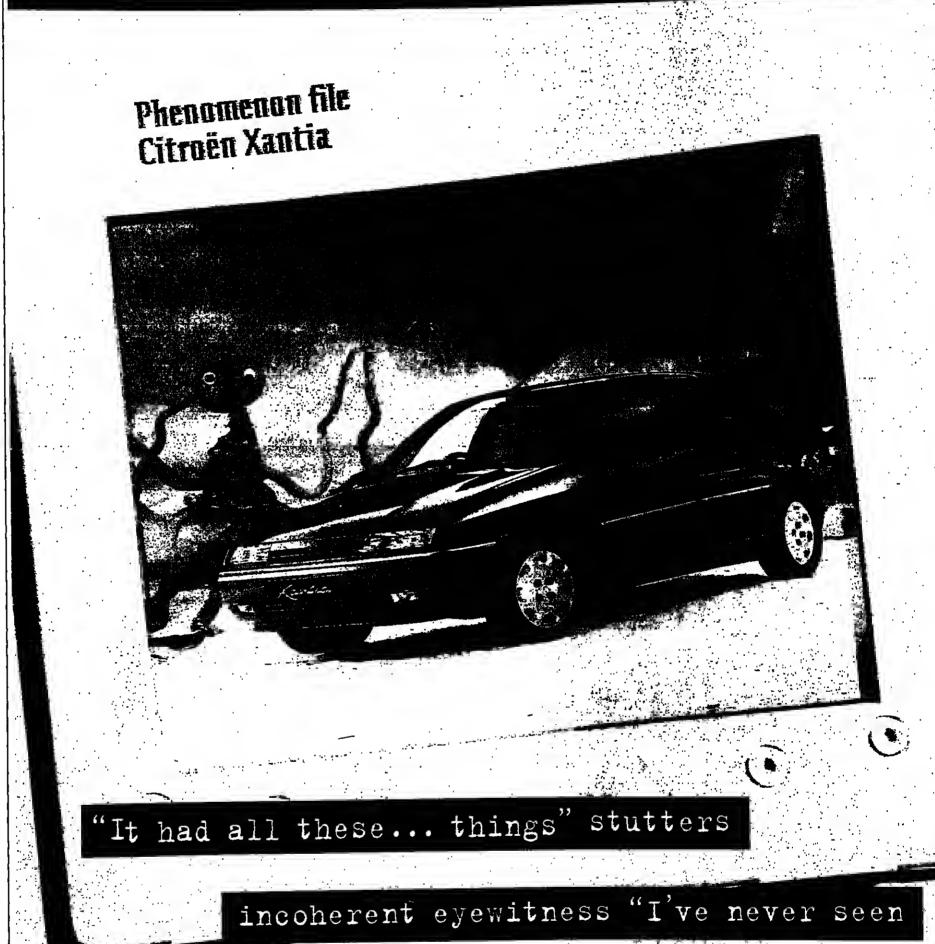
"It is important that there is adequate opportunity for all raw milk producers and consumers to have the chance to make their views known," said Jeff Rooker, the food safety

minister. "Protecting consumers remains our first priority but in these exceptional circumstances we have extended the consultation period."

The move comes amid criticism of the Government's decision to ban sales of beef on the bone, imposed after a consultation period of only seven days.

The milk ban in England was proposed last November following advice to ministers from independent scientists that the untreated milk could contain potentially harmful hacteria. Letters were sent out to 180 representative organisations and interested parties. Similar consultation exercises are taking place in Wales and Northern Ireland. The sale of raw cows' drinking milk has been

banned in Scotland since 1983. It sparked opposition from farmers who claim labels already ensure consumers are warned about the risks of drinking the milk. Sir Julian Rose, chairman of the Association of Unpasteurised Milk Producers and Consumers, said: "Some half a million consumers enjoy the taste of real milk fresh and unprocessed. Some suffer from allergies aggravated by the pasteurised equivalent and any ban will mean they will have to stop drinking milk altogether."



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## Morals, tables and technology: why this is the best junior school in Britain

Frank Haverty, the head teacher of St valuing the individual whilst making chil- Monsignor Tom Gavin, said: "We have Thomas More primary school in Coventry, is happy to describe himself as someone who has worn the same style clothes for more than 20 years, until they came back into fashion.

St Thomas More has itself continued to use relatively traditional teaching group work. It has absorbed a number of methods despite the dominance of propressive education for much of the time since Mr Haverty became head teacher in 1971. Set in a suburb of the city, the Roman Catholic school is one of 159 schools which gained an excellent report from the education watchdog and which have been named in the Chief Inspector of Schools' annual report.

The school's Ofsted report, published last June, said that most of its 380 pupils achieved well above the standards expected nationally in core subjects, including English, maths and science. Progress in other subjects was also praised as was the behaviour of the children, and their attitudes to learning and moral development.

Forty-five per cent of teaching was described as very good or excellent and 95 per cent was said to be sound. Mr Haverty and his governors believe that religious ethos is the basis of the school's success,

dren aware of the importance of other people. This is supported by a teaching style which includes traditional techniques such as learning multiplication tables by heart and whole-class teaching, although the school also uses modern methods like up-to-date ideas and has invested around £12,000 in a computer suite. The school's approach is backed by well-motivated staff, and a partnership with parents and the local community.

St Thomas More primary has a mixed catchment area that includes many middle-class children. Only about 8 per cent of pupils have free school meals, compared with a national average of 16 per cent.

The school has a nursery on site which was built by Coventry City Council. The council spends more on education than the government recommends and this extra funding has helped make hudgeting easier, although Mr Haverty said the school could always use more resources.

"We are traditional and make no apologies for that but we are not too rigid," he said, "I always think if anything is too rigid it will snap, so we try to make school fun."

The chairman of the governors,

some dedicated staff and they have really got an acknowledgement for what they have achieved."

Louise Daniels, whose seven-year-old son Stephen and five-year-old daughter Helen go to the school, said: "Teachers just seem to take a really genuine interest in the children, the teachers have good standards and they stick to them." Mrs Daniels' son has mild autism and the school has been very supportive of his special needs.

Mick Kelly, a publican, was pleased with the way his daughters Emma-leigh, aged nine and Nataleigh, aged six, were being taught.

"St Thomas More runs very well, hasically because of the strong moral beliefs and good teachers," he said.

James O'Brien, a 10-year-old pupil at the school, said he liked maths and comprehension. "I think all our teachers are very good, she is there if you need help," he said.

Sarah Taberner, also aged 10, said: "My favourite subjects are history and art, my teacher is very good, she explains things to you and she interested me in those



- Matt Rodda Starting out: Children working in the reception class at St Thomas More school, Coventry



## Middle-class children let down by bad teachers

Middle-class children at schools in leafy suburbs are being let down by bad teaching, says yesterday's annual report of the Chief Inspector of Schools. But, overall, standards are rising, reports Judith Judd, Education Editor.

Education remains too much of a lottery," says the report from Chris Woodhead, the chief inspector. Schools with similar intakes in both the inner cities and the suburbs are performing very differently.

some schools in affluent areas years ago. less than balf of 11-year-olds are reaching the expected stan- even better if they are to dard in English, well below the national average.

Mr Woodhead said vesterday: "Schools in the leafy suburbs have no excuse whatsoever for underachievement. These schools should be pushing the boundaries for children. Some don't."

Overall, teachers are teaching better. Only around 12 per cent of lessons are poor compared with 16 per cent a year ago and around 30 per cent four years ago.

Yet the proportion of bad schools remains unchanged. The problems of one in 10 continue to be "desperately intractable", says Mr Woodhead.

Overall, teaching is good in almost half of lessons and less than satisfactory in one in eight. Most had teaching is to be found in classes of eight- and nine-year-olds in primary schools and among 13- and 14year-olds in secondary schools.

Despite the improvements, Mr Woodhead insisted that his controversial figure for 13,000 bad teachers still stood.

Where schools are failing, the fault is often that of the head. One in six primary and

one in 10 secondary heads -

more than 3,000 overall - lack the drive and determination to

hior

give proper leadership. Mr Woodhead applauds a change in culture among teachers which has led to the agreement of teacher unions to new procedures for sacking bad teachers, "Four years ago, the idea that any teacher might be incompetent was dismissed as a ludicrous right-wing plot. Nobody now tries to defend the indefensible.

The culture change was clear, too, in the move towards more traditional teaching methods, such as whole-class teaching, setting by ability and more emphasis on the 3Rs. All have been backed by Mr Woodhead His report records that in since he came into post four

> achieve the Government's ambitious targets, the report says.

Marking is not tough enough in some schools, Mr Woodhead said. Teachers either do not mark work or they fail to correct all the mistakes. Many do not use the information gained from assessment to help pupils.

The report also suggests that the tests for seven-year-olds may be too easy. Pupils may find themselves struggling in junior schools because the tests present too rosy a picture.

Stephen Byers, the school standards minister, said: "This is good news. It is clear that schools are beginning to rise to the challenge which we have set them. However, there is still much work to be done. There can be no room for complacency."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The chief inspector seems to think he can switch on and off his approval of schools at random. Exceltence should be celebrated but we have a very long way to go before trust can be restored between teachers and the chief inspector."



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## Revealed: Thousands allowed to vote under false names

Battered wives, prison warders and police officers are being allowed to vote under assumed names in breach of election rules. Electoral officials revealed to our reporter that the anomaly was one of many in a system which was due for radical overhaul.

A provision for anonymous registration should be introduced to protect people who are genuinely at risk if they allowed their real names to go on the electoral roll, according to electoral officials.

Currently registration officers are tak-

and their families are at risk from having their addresses made public and bending the rules so that they can still vote. It is believed that many others are sacrificing their

suffrage rather than going on the roll. The Independent has been given a list of proposals from the Association of Electoral Administrators (AEA), which oversees the compilation of the electoral roll throughout the country, which they have put to a government working party on electoral reform heing chaired by George Howarth, the Home Office Minister.

Apart from introducing a facility for anonymous registration, they call for trials of electronic voting.

The AEA would also like disabled voting sympathy oo those who claim that they polling station crush and would like steps ers to be allowed to vote away from the

### EXCLUSIVE BY IAN BURRELL

could cast their vote in secret.

John Tumer, chairman of the AEA, said: "Change is needed now. Voter tumout must be improved. The election process must be modernised and improved or the organs of government will become more and more remote from the people they claim to represent."

His deputy, Colin Marshall, said: "Each registration officer knows that people are not particularly happy that their details are public knowledge; prison officers, police officers, people at risk from their es-

to be introduced so that blind voters tranged husbands. Unlike the council tax, there is no anonymous registration although a number of electoral registratioo officers get by this.

"Sometimes we put people in their maiden names, or police are put in their wife's maiden name."

He added: "It's technically wrong but I think that many election officers sympathise with people in this position. I personally know of people who have been traced by villains and either had their prop-

erty vandalised or have been threatened." The Home Office working party will look

at various ways of improving electoral practices, including registration of the homeless and setting up a continuous or rolling register so that people do not lose their vote if they move home shortly before an election. It will also look at automated voting, whereby voters press a button instead of mark a cross against the name of their chosen candidate. Such electronic methods have been tried in other countries and speed

up the counting process. In its submission, the AEA, expresses the view that Britain has allowed itself to rest on its laurels as the cradle of democracy. "The British electoral system is based on custom and practice going back well over a century. No exhaustive review has been carried out during that time -changes have often been piecemeal, minor

or technical with little direct consequence for the voter."

The Independent has also obtained a copy of the latest British electorate figures, compiled by the Treasury.

They show that despite the activity that surrounded the run-up to last May's election, when campaigns like Rock the Vote and Operation Black Vote aimed to attract the missing young and ethnic minority voters, there are still nearly 2 million people missing from the electoral register.

By last February, there were 39,229,038 people registered to vote, an increase of 235,000 from the previous year. But because the population eligible to vote increased by 179,000, the number of missing voters was only reduced by 56,000 to 1,982,434.

### After the hype, British fashion lures the serious money

After decades of hype and no substance, London fashion is finally being taken seriously. Last week, Paul Smith, a world player in menswear with sales totalling £165m last year, announced that he would be showing his women's collection on the catwalk for the first time later this month. And he has chosen London as the venue.

Hussein Chalayan, one of our most challenging and innovative designers, announced that he had signed a three-season contract with American giant TSE Cashmere, and has also been signed up to design a capsule collection for the British chain Top Shop-who will in return sponsor his London catwalk show this month. Chalayan's TSE New York collection will be shown on the catwalk at New York Fashion Week at the end of March. The line is expected to make £4m wholesale in the first year.

Meanwhile, Sonja Nuttall, a designer with the potential to be Britain's answer to. Jil Sauder, has gained sound financial backing and support for her company from British high-street supplier, Intraport.

Young designer Owen Gaster, who has struggled to self-finance his past five collections, has won backing from the Italian manufacturer Casor, who will sponsor his show alongside BhS. And Antony Price, a fashion legend since the Seventies when he finally being turned into serious money. young customers and maintain any credi-

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ger and the Rolling Stones, as well as David Bowie, is the latest in a line of British designers rumoured to be in the running for

the job as head of Versace Couture. The wacky ideas that have made London the creative capital of the fashion world are have recognised that to capture affluent



dressed Roxy Music, Jerry Hall, Mick Jag- British designers became a viable commercial proposition when John Galliano was given the house of Givenchy to reinvent. Then came Alexander McQueen, also at Givenchy, and Stella McCartney at Chioe. The traditional fashion houses

bility beyond the millennium they need to buy-in young blood. The British fashion pack is the natural hunting ground.

Antonio Berardi, whose first collection for Italian leather company Ruffo is unveiled in Milan next month, is also rumoured to be up for the Versace job. But gossip links 52-



Ready to go: (clockwise from left) Antony Price, thought to be in the running for the top Versace post; Sonja Nuttall, lifted by sound financial backing; John Galliano, chief designer at Dior; and Husseln Chalayan, who has signed contracts with Top Shop and the American

Photographs: Chris Moore/Ben Elwes

the launch of a cosmetics range which oeeds the publicity and kudos a couture collection

Price has his own small-scale but thriving couture business, based in London. His customers include Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, Patsy Kensit, Jerry Hall and Anjelica Houston. And, like the late Gianni Versace, Antony Price is in the business of creating an illusion of perfection. The safety-pin dress that Liz Hurley wore to the premier of Four Weddings and a Funeral was the result of clever corsetry. Women, even Liz Hurley, simply do not have bodies that go in and out in exactly the right places. But with a little help from Mr Price, anything is possible.

"If I am given the money to do it, I will not fail," said Price yesterday from his studio where he is working on a collection to be shown at milliner Philip Treacy's show during Fashion Week later this month.

"The terrible thing that has always hampered me is not a lack of ideas ... but money. Putting oo a catwalk show is like asking the world to a fantastic party and spending the next five years paying it off." Instead of "staggering around on a British shoe string" the job at Versace would give the resources to bring his ideas to life. "You could do fantastic things there," he says.

— Tamsin Blanchord

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## France's teachers strike against Socialist 'treachery'

Haif of the secondary school teachers in France went on strike yesterday to protest against reforms in the Western world's most unwieldy education system. John Lichfield, who has children at a French school, takes the side of the education minister, Claude Aliègre.

Charlie, aged oearly eight, has just started to learn geometry by heart. The definition of "a line", he intones, is something which goes in one direction for ever; unless you put a capital A at one end and a capital B at the other and then it is not a line at all but only a part of a line.

Turning to his French grammar book, we learn, among other things, that "the ducks have left the region". In his project work - a great innovation in primary schools in France - he and his classmates have been preoccupied. in stupefying horticultural detail. with the "life-cycle of the haricot bean".

On Monday, there was no school; the teachers had declared a "day of concernation", a distressingly regular occur-



rence, when the teachers, as far as we can make out, talk among themselves

I should add that Charlie loves his school; the discipline, the curriculum, based on a rote-learning more unbending than I experienced in England in the Fifties, appeals to a juvenile sense of order which we had not previously suspected in him. For pareots, the system, based on marks out of 10, is reassuringly easy to follow. However, the total absence of creativity, or independent thinking, something which marks French educatioo right up to university level, is startling and disturbing.

Among those that it disturbs is Claude Allegre, the soo of teachers, a former university

for education in the Socialistled government of Lionel Jospin. Mr Allègre came to office last June with a promise to "take the fat off the mamtheir opinions. moth" of the French education

He wanted to devolve the legendary central power of the education ministry - one of the largest civilian employers in Europe with 1,500,000 staff - to allow more decision-making and hiring at local and school level. That would mean altering the age-old system uoder which teachers were allocated to schools throughout France by committees io Paris (on which

Allègre) their practice of awarding themselves study days in term time. He also started an inquiry into the curriculum which he described (perfectly) as "too ambitious and not demanding enough". Every Freech education minister tinkers with the school curriculum but there

the main teaching unions were

heavily represented). He criti-

cised the absenteeism of teach-

ers and (hooray, for Mr

change in approach, so it is said, since the 1880s. Mr Allègre said that he wanted to move towards a

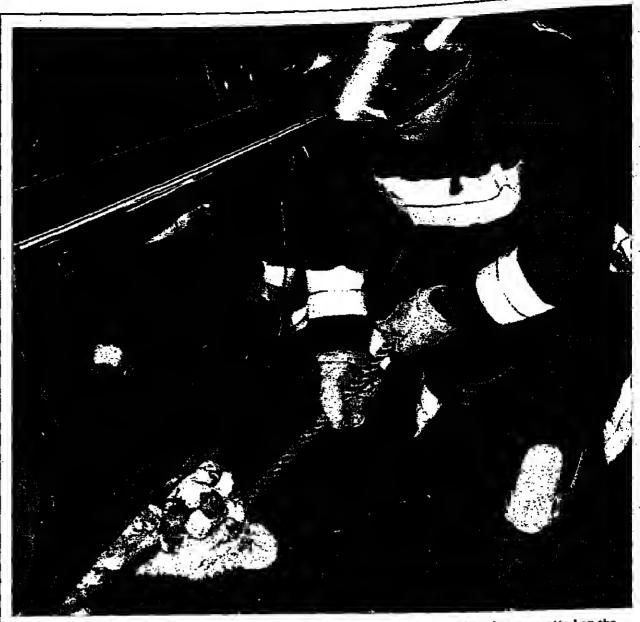
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more orderly progression of learning. His researches, to the horror of the teachers, included asking children in French lycées (16- to 18- year-olds) for

The whole Allègre programme is seen by many teachers and, crucially, by the unions as a treacherous attack on their status and privileges: treacherous because teachers tend overwhelmingly to vote for the Socialist party and its allies.

Yesterday's strike - supported by 50 per cent of secondary teachers, not quite as many as the union leaders had hoped for - was the first barrage in what may prove to be a long war. It was aimed at different parts of the Allègre programme according to which union was involved. The largest teaching union, the SNES, is mostly incensed by the plan to decentralise hiring and firing of staff (which would remove much of the union's

But the dispute is seen, on both sides, as a battle to preserve acquired rights: a classic example of the mobilisation of the French forces of immobilism. It remains to be seen whether Mr Allègre, unlike his timid predecessors, will stick to



Cat napped: A fireman in Mexico City drags an escaped lioness from under a car after she was spotted on the Photograph: Reuters street by a police patrol. Safely caught, the big cat was taken to Chapultepec Zoo

## 5 Bossi talks of armed fight for secession

Telephone taps on Italy's Northern League boss have revealed that Umberto Bossi planned to back up his threat of secession with violence, writes Andrew Gumbel in

It was exactly the compromising evidence Italian prosecutors have been seeking to nail the northern separatist leader. For months they have been investigating Umberto Bossi's Northern League for possible subversion of the state, looking high and low for a smoking gun - evidence that the party planned to back up its threats of secession from Italy with organised violence.

As was clear from the leak of documents to yesterday's morning papers, they have at last hit on something. Transcripts from tapped telephone conversations excerpted in the press produced numerous references by Mr Bossi and his followers to the oeed to organise street demonstrations and "beat up as many people as possible".

In one outhurst to a party secretary from Venice, Mr Bossi looked forward to the day he could take his revenge oo those political forces now out to destroy him: "We'll all have machine-guns in our hands, and it will be an enormous pleasure to despatch the maximum

possible number of those pieces of s- to the oext world."

Although Mr Bossi and his 40 fellow separatists under investigation have yet to be sent to trial the political world was quick to react to the leaked telephone taps with sentiments of unequivocal condemnation. These are statements of ex-

ceptional seriousness," said Fabio Mussi, parliamentary floor leader of the main governmeot party, the left-wing PDS. "I urge all citizens of the north and especially those who vote for the League to make themselves heard and stop

The revelations were a clear embarrassment to the Northern League, which has in recent years stopped all public talk of "oiling the Kalashnikovs" and tried to depict its campaign for independence for the affluent

north as a Gandhi-style struggle based on non-violence. Alberto Mazzonetto, the

Venice secretary who had the "machine-gun" conversation with Mr Bossi, yesterday tried to explain away the strong language as no more than a joke, and strongly rejected a suggestion by the Verona-based public prosecutor, Guido Papalia, that the League leadership displayed Fascist tendencies.

But numerous public figures yesterday wondered what a magistrate was doing tapping the phone conversations of sitting parliameotarians without permission, and also how evidence supposedly kept sub judice could find its way into the columns of the daily press.

Mr Bossi's number two. Roberto Maroni, said his party would consider suing Judge Papalia for violation of the constitution and the law on phonetapping. The League would also boycott any trial in which its members were involved.

It was hard to tell just how serious the leaks might prove for Mr Bossi, He is known for his flights of florid language, few of which seem to be backed up by concrete signs of menace.

On the other hand, Mr Bossi's rhetoric has sharpeoed considerably of late. In a receot attack oo Rome he described it as being filled with "pigs" and "bastards" - something which this week earned him a libel writ from the city's mayor. Francesco Rutelli.

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### INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON THE VOTING SYSTEM

The Independent Commission on the Voong System, chaired by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, is seeking views on alternatives to the current "first-past-the-post" system of elections to the House of Commons.

The Commission would welcome reasoned submissions in writing from any person or organisation interested in the subject.

The Commission's terms of reference are:-

"The Commission will be free to consider and recommend any appropriate system or combination of systems in recommending an alternative to the present system for Parliamentary elections to be put before the people in the Government's referendum.

The Commission shall observe the requirement for broad proportionality, the need for stable government, an extension of voter choice and the maintenance of a link between MPs and geographical constituencies."

Written submissions should be brief, and sent soon (before the end of February, if at all possible) to the Independent Commission on the Voting System at:

6th Floor, Clive House, Petty France, LONDON SW1H 9HD or e-mailed to: votingcom@holis.demon.co.uk

BY PETER

**POPHAM** 

The Prince of Wales arrived in Sri Lanka yesterday to join in the celebrations of the war-torn country's 50th anniversary of independence. Our correspondent witnessed the start of a visit constrained by security anxieties.

As Prince Charles stood on the podium in Colombo airport this afternoon, cannon shots rang out in salute, and a stray dog. clearly convinced that it was about to dic. sprinted flat out across the runway. Then the long grass in front of the guns burst into flames and a fire engine raced up to put them out. Finally, the band marched off playing the theme tune from Monty Python's Flying Circus.

It was a promising start to a royal visit which terror and scandal have reduced to a ceremonial skeleton. At a temple east of Colom-

bo which the Prince visited later in the afternoon, one of the treasures he inspected is a statue of the Fasting Buddha, eyes sunk into their sockets, stomach no more than a hole, limbs reduced to fleshless tendons.

The Prince's four-day Sri Lanka tour is a bit like that. Gone is the excursion to the old royal capital of Kandy, the prettiest town in the country and its religious heart. Gone, for reasons of royal face, is the investiture of Arthur C Clarke, the science fiction author about whom claims have been made that he paid for sex with young boys. Various meetings with exponents of intermediate technology and the like were mooted, but security concerns ruled them out.

The Prince's first stop-off was at a new factory making men's underwear for Marks & Spencer, a joint venture between Courtaulds and local firms. He unveiled a plaque. Then at the 17th-century Raja Maha Vijaraya temple he was swept up in a traditional temple procession with bare-chested drummers, women in shocking pink dresses waving fly whisks, and infant dancers in pointed hats. Escorted under a mammoth saffron parasol next to the abbot, be presented a plate of rose petals at the foot of a goldeo image of the Buddha of the Future inside the temple, and admired the wall paintings.

His arrival in the capital was a muted affair. The schoolchildren who were supposed to cheer and wave had been sent back to their studies lest une of them were to choose glorious martyrdom as a Tamil Tiger suicide homber. So instead the streets were lined only with soldiers; some 10,000 have been deployed in Culombo over the anniversary period. This is a country which, thanks to the civil war, is celebrating 50 years of freedom through gritted teeth.

There is, however, far less touchiness about the colonial legacy of Sri Lanka than is found in, for example, India. Today, while the might of the country's armed forces rolls past Prince Charles in the official anniversary celebration, an alternative event in the hills east of Kandy will see the

enthronement, at a place called Welassa, of an anti-British monk as the Prince of Welassa. Welassa - Wales, get it? The National Joint Committee of Buddhist Organisations thinks the Prince should not have

been invited and is staging the tongue-incheek event as a mild protest. But feelings amongst the population at large are not running high. Unlike in India, there was no freedom struggle in Sri Lanka; independence was handed them on a plate. Lord Salisbury is honoured as the father of the constitution. Prince Charles's arrival has caused little stir, but that is blamed on his lack of charisma. Were he to have brought his sons, William and Harry, it might bave been different. When Diana, Princess of Wales died the grief here rivalled that in Britain.

It is rumoured that Prince Charles may steal time from his thin schedule to make a secret visit to Kandy, to inspect the damage that the Temple of the Sacred Tooth. If he were able to prowl about on his own be would find in Sri Lanka's streets numerous reminders of Britain of the Fifties; Morris Minor and Morris Oxford cars, advertisements for Lifebuoy and Sunlight soaps, Players Gold Leaf and Horlicks. Such a walkabout is very unlikely to happen, however, because as long as the Prince is in the country his safety will be a gigantic headache for the government. The temptation for the Tamil Tigers to punctuate his visit with a "spectacular" must he almost irresistible.



### **Falklands** talks deadlock

Sixteen years after the Falklands War, there is still no end in sight to the stalemate over the status of the islands. But, as Steve Crawshaw reports, there are hints of optimism in advance of a visit by the Argentine President later this year. Potential oil wealth could both help and hinder progress.

There was a mixture of optimism and dismay at a conference in London yesterday oo the future of the Falkland Islands. All sides agreed on the need for dialogue. But there was agreement, too, that finding a way forward was difficult.

Rogelio Pfirter, the Argentine ambassador in London, said that his government was "fully committed to building bridges with the islands", but also admitted that a solution is "some way down the road".

The potential for economic development has transformed the outlook for the Falklands. Sheep-farming is no longer the only game in town. Oil prospects are still unclear - around a 30 per cent chance, according to one speaker yesterday. But John d'Ancona, a consultant with knowledge of the region, suggested that oil production of 100,000 barrels per day was not unrealistic. This, be speculated, could bring in income of £500,000 a day - thus transforming the islands' economy at a stroke. The possibility of diamonds deposits has also been raised.

Fishing is much more important than il was 20 years ago - and continues to be a source of both friction and co-operation. The co-operation has become necessary in order to ensure that stocks do not decline. But it is difficult to work out how to divide the fishing. Fish, as one speaker noted with some understatement, "do not observe man-made boundaries". шţ

Argentina wants to put shared sovereignty on the table. Britain has so far been cautious. The islanders fear a sell-out. Sukey Cameron, representative in London of the Falkland Islands government, told yesterday's conference, organised by the South Atlantic Council, that the views of the islanders are regarded as "at best inconvenient, at worst unimportant".

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### Fourteen die in cable-car crash

A United States Marine aircraft on a training flight severed a cable-car line in Italy yesterday, and 14 people plunged to their death. Almost all those killed were German, Italian RAI state television reported.

The accident occurred at a ski resort in the Val di Fassa area of the Dolomite Mountains near Trento. The cable car was travelling from the town of Cavalese to the top of Cermis mountain, the site of a popular ski resort. Thirteen skiers and the car's operator were killed when it fell almost 300 feet, said a police officer.

Alpine rescue teams and search helicopters went to the scene. Passengers were evacuated from the line's other cable car, which was on its way down.

The aircraft was an EA-6B Marine Prowler, stationed at the US air base in Aviano, about 62 miles east of the scene of the accident, said a spokesman at the base. He said it was unclear what caused the accident. The aircraft returned safely with minor, unspecified damage, and the pilot was unburt.

The cahin had just begun its ascent from the base at Cavalese, at an altitude of about 3,000ft, and was heading toward a mid-station when it fell, said Alessia Dezugliana, an employee of the Alpe Cermis ski area. The cable car's destination is at 6,000ft.

An accident at the same cable car line in March 1976 killed 42 people. Blame for that accident was laid on the suspension of an automatic safety system.



In the bag: Schoolgirls on military training in Baghdad

## Israelis afraid of chemical attack by Iraq

The Israeli government has decided that it can no longer play down the danger of chemical and biological weapons being used against Israel by Irag. Patrick Cockburn in lerusalem writes on its measures to protect and reassure the population.

During the Gulf war a guard at the Israeli Defence Ministry was so fixated by fear of poison gas attack that he locked out his own Defence Minister. Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister in question, remembers how he was woken by the wail of air raid sirens at 2am on 18 January 1991, as the first Iraqi Scud missiles exploded in Tel Aviv and Haifa.

When Mr Arens got to the door of the Defence Ministry he found it locked. He says: "The guard, whom I could see through a window in the door, was wearing his gas mask, and had evidently gotten instructions not to open the door for fear of gas entering the bunker."

After pounding vainly on the door for some minutes Mr Arens gave up and went off to find another entrance to his command and control centre.

The anecdote underlines how protective measures against chemical or hiological weapons are almost as disahling as the attack itself. Knowing this, Israeli government officials have hitherto minimised the likelihood of Iraq firing Scuds at Israel on the scale of 1991. They add that, even if the warheads contain hiological or chemical agents, there are enough gas masks, sealed rooms and antibiotics to keep the population safe.

At first the government said little about how it intended to counter any Iraqi threat. Then Richard Butler, the head of the United Nations team inspecting Iraqi strategic weapons,

means to deliver them to "blow away Tel Aviv". Israelis began to pour into gas mask distribution centres, mainly boused in schools, to pick up new "Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Kits, replacing those distributed in 1991.

Panic is a long way off but there is growing anxiety. "Will it be war? asked the proprietor of Iwo's delicatessen in Shamai street in Jerusalem. I thought he had said "Will it be warm?" and gave him an unnecessary analysis of weather conditions. Most Israelis do not think anything will happen - unless Iraqi President Saddam Hussein thinks his regime is going to collapse - but believe it best to be on the safe side.

The government has deployed Patriot anti-missile missiles near Arad, not far from the Israeli nuclear reactor at Dimona in the Negev desert, though it denies that they are there because of the present crisis. Their presence is not entirely reassuring because in 1991, when Israel was hit by 39 missiles fired from Iraq's westem desert, the Patriots, manned by American crews, failed to bring down a single one.

The problem for Israel is that to equip 5 million people with kits to protect them is a massive job. As people jostled each other in one slowly moving queue for gas masks in Tel Aviv a woman said: "Imagine what would be happening if they were handing out antidotes to anthrax or antibiotics. People standing in line would be murdering each other." A poll shows that 53 per cent of Israelis do not feel properly protected against missile attack.

The government is caught in a bind. It really does believe that the danger of Iraqi attack is minimal. But it does not want to be accused of not doing everything possible. It has asked the US for lethal chemical detectors. It is allocating an extra \$69m (£43m) for gas masks. As a psychological threat Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction" said last week that Baghdad has are already succeeding in enough biological toxins and the disrupting everyday life.

### RUSSIA CLAIMS PROGRESS

Russia insisted yesterday that it had made progress in persuading Iraq to comply with United Nations demands and head off the prospect of United States military action.

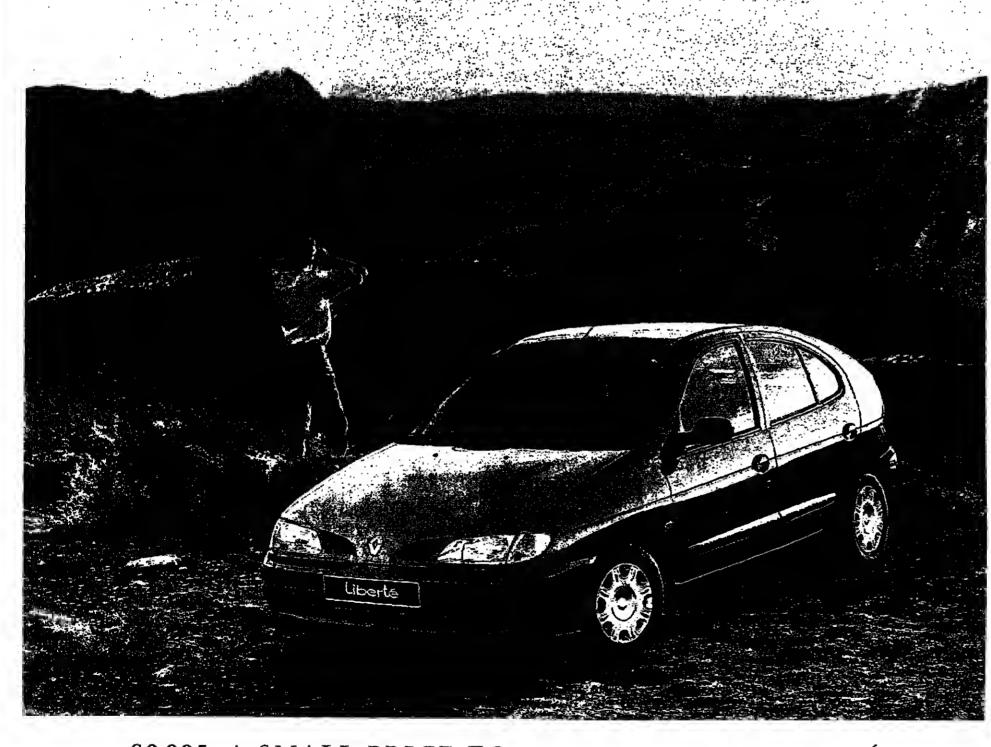
But confusion remained about the substance of envoy Viktor Posuvalyuk's talks in Iraq after Baghdad denied Russian reports that President Saddam Hussein had agreed to open eight new presidential sites to UN arms inspectors.

A Kremlin spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhemhsky, said: There are shifts in the Iraqi

position which mean movement towards meeting the demands of the world community. We hope this will make it possible to continue implementing UN resolutions on destruction of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq."

The US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, neared the end of her trip to Europe, the Middle East and the Gulf to drum up support for military action against Iraq. So far only Britain has given unequivocal backing to the campaign.

- Reuters, Mascow



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## Blair heads for US and a sexually challenged mission

A battle between sex and substance will be fought out between the media, President Bill **Clinton and Tony Blair** when the Prime Minister flies out to Washington this evening. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on the build-up to the three-day visit.

While the President and Mr Blair will attempt to concentrate on the big picture issues of Iraq, Northern Ireland, the Asia "meltdown", work and welfare, education and health, the Monica Lewinsky question will be lurking – and is bound to be put when the two men stage a joint press conference

at the White House on Friday. At one London briefing on the visit this week, the question was even raised by the Financial Times, and in an exchange with a BBC correspondent yesterday, the Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "I fear the BBC has decided that Lewinsky is the story, but we sure that Saddam Hussein will have to live with that,"

the question again, he was told that if he asked Mr Blair about Ms Lewinsky on Friday: "The answer will be that Monica whatever her name is, I don't think will figure in his answer. He will refer to the excellent job that the President is doing and the excellent judgement of the American people in appearing to put this stuff in its proper

perspective." In a London briefing with American correspondents on Monday, Mr Blair said such distractions were "part of modern political life", but it was greatly to the President's credit that he had not been distracted.

Urging the media to have a sense of perspective and balance, Mr Blair added that there was a difference between the interest, "sometimes an interest bordering on an obsession", with people's personal lives and issues of huge importance to the world.

Asked about Iraq - one such issue, high on the Washington talks agenda - Mr Blair said the objective was to make complied with United Nations

When the BBC man pressed resolutions on inspection. "This is not a situation," he said, "in which the UN inspectors have been there trying to find evidence of evil intent on the part of Saddam Hussein. The cvidence is there.

"They have uncovered masses and masses of weapons: 48 Seud missiles: 38,000 chemical weapons munitions; 3,000 tonnes of chemical weapon precursors; a large hiological weapons manufacturing plant.

"These are actual things that they have uncovered and stopped, which is the reason why we are so intent on bringing him back into line and allowing the inspectors back in to do their work in the future, because obviously our concern is that if we don't do that, then he may be developing further weapons of mass destruction."

Against that background, one of the issues raised at yesterday's Number 10 briefing was whether Cherie Booth would be taking a hairdresser with her. The Prime Minister's official spokesman said: "I honestly am not aware of ber follicular arrangements.



## New threat mars fall in American Aids deaths

The three-drug cocktails -

**Deaths from Aids** across the US fell 44 per cent in the first half of last year, showing the power of new drug cocktails. But Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, says evidence about the origins of the epidemic suggest the virus could

pose a new threat.

'We can't see the end of the epidemic but it is the beginning of a new cra," Dr Kevin De-Cock told the world's largest annual Aids conference in Chicago yesterday.

His optimism is understandable. Dr DeCock of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta was commenting on new figures which show that Aids is being successfully curbed with the patients live, show an even bigthree-drug combinations inger decline at 48 per cent. Both troduced two years ago. A men and women and people diagnosis that was a death of all races are benefiting. senience has become a chronic condition compatible with a

two older Aids drugs such as near normal life. AZT plus one of the newer Figures presented at the protease inhibitors - have revfifth conference on retroolutionised Aids care. Typiviruses and opportunistic cally, people start on them as infections show that US deaths soon as they learn they are infrom Aids peaked in 1994 fected, before they get ill. The and 1995 and then nosed treatment drives the level of downwards in 1996. Last year virus in the blood so low that the fall accelerated.

it is undetectable and many pain the first half of 1997, tients remain well. It does not 12,040 Americans died of Aids work for all, however, and pacompared with 21,460 in the tients have to take around 20 first half of 1996. Figures for pills a day at precise times. the whole of 1997, only avail-Some specialists fear that able for New York where 16 the decline may only be a lull per cent of the country's Aids and that deaths will rise again

as the effect of the new treatments wears off. Dr Harold Jaffe of the Centers for Disease Control said: "Are we in a honeymoon period? Is there something bad on the horizon?" The total number of Americans living with Aids is up 13

per cent to 259,000. Between 400,000 and 650,000 are estimated to be infected with

In a separate development.

scientists from Rockefeller University in New York reported in Nature that they have traced the origin of the disease from a genetic analysis of HIV positive blood plasma taken from an African man in 1959. The form of the virus recovered was at an early stage of its evolution.

This suggested that the single virus which founded the epidemic existed 10 to 15 years earlier, around or just after the Second World War. The scientists warned that the rapid evolution of HIV-1 in the past 40 or 50 years heralded even greater diversification in the future, underscoring "the need for continued surveillance".

#### LEWINSKY'S THREE DOZEN WHITE HOUSE VISITS

The hue and cry over President Bill Clinton's alleged relationship with the White House trainee, Monica Lewinsky, had subsided sufficiently yesterday for Ms Lewinsky and her lawyer, William Ginsburg, finally to leave Washington for California. But new evidence about the extent of contacts between the President and the trainee he had referred to as "that woman" in his televised denial last week Indicated that his

difficulties were far from over. In a front-page report, the New York Times said that Ms Lewinsky visited the White House more than three dozen times after being transferred from her job in the legislative affairs department there to the Pentagon in April 1996. Officials at the Pentagon said that her visits were not connected

Quoting White House logs (which its reporters had been told of, but had not seen), the New York Times said Ms Lewinsky was cleared for entry - no easy feat - on 37 occasions between April 1996 and December 1997. The last recorded time was on 28 De-

cember. Mostly, clearance had been given by Mr Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie. Ms Currie's desk is just out-

side the Oval office, and she acted effectively as gatekeeper, granting or denying access and screening telephone calls. Ms Currie was called to testify last week in the investigation into the Lewinsky case being conducted by the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, but volunteered no information about what she said.

— Mary Dejevsky, Woshington

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## THE INDEPENDENT

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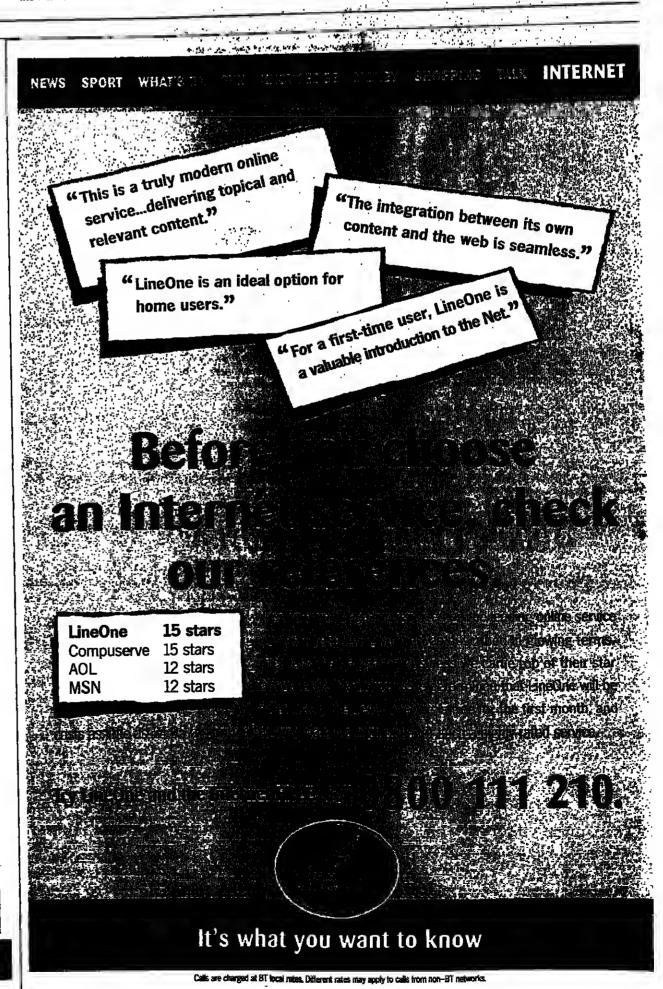
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## 14/THEATRE



to be done.' And if you really want to see it done well, says Paul

Taylor, go to a theatre.

The pink flower she wore when she went into the witness box wasn't a smart move. Nor was blue suit. I mean, a woman like her should have been aflame with scarlet at the very least. And when this 38-year-old songwriter, who had conducted an affair with a 17-year-old bitof-rough toy boy, was acquitted of murdering her husband by mallet blows to the skull, her neighbours - pruriently agog at the trial like the rest of the nation - took their revenge by ing image was pointedly amfrom ber garden. Pink had been mummified or were these only appropriate that, wheo would fight its way out? the thought of her lover hanga pink wreath to the funeral.

It may seem a far cry from the Oresteia of Aeschylus to the case of Alma Rattenbury of the Villa Madeira, Bournemouth, the real-life subject of Terence Rattigan's last play, Cause prejudiced and unshockable are Célèbre, which is just about to be revived by Neil Bartlett at the Lyric Hammersmith, You can. however, trace a direct connection and not just because both works illustrate the inherent theatricality of trials.

There, at the origins of again in a play about a 1930s court case, written in the mid-1970s, you find

coding of the forces doing battle in Aeschylus' great trilogy the matrilineal law of blood versus emergent all-male democracy and civic order, to say nothing of the casuistical, scarcely women-friendly ruling. that matricide is acceptable because it is fathers who create the restrainedly stylish navy children. It is true that some outstanding modern productions have incorporated a sense of their own unease with this. In Peter Stein's Oresteia, for example, the culminating trial was presented in an irreverent mammer not unreminescent of a glitzy TV game show, and when the avenging grey-hag Furies were gagged and trussed up in purple cloths, the resulttearing out all the pink flowers -biguous. Were they now

the press-hounding after her re- our own progressiveness, conlease drove this woman to sui- sider the Lyric's canny publicicide, a friend should have sent ty blurb for this new staging of Cause Celèbre: "Alma Rattenbury was 38 years old. Her husband was 68. Her lover was 17. No wonder she ended up at the Old Bailey." The tone is a camp dare: come on, it says, just how unyou, really?

The first words of the play are from the Clerk of the Court: "Alma Victoria Rattenbury, you are charged with the murder of Francis Mawson Rattenbury on March 28, 1935. Are you guilty or not guilty?" Murder, though, Western drama and then is a side issue: what is fundamentally on trial here is female sexuality. She may have been innocent of the killing but it was for being, in their eyes, an evil moral influence that the press and the crowds hounded her. Never mind that she had initially confessed to the murder to save Wood, her lover, thus evincing rather more than mere carnal appetite for him. Never mind that it was to protect her own young sons that she changed her plea. Also forget that no one thought it odd for the deceased man to have married a woman

30 years his junior. No, it suited the media and the Tory MP for Bournemouth to present Wood as a preyedupon working-class innocent, one of our boys. Rattigan's play does not shirk the problem of Alma Rattenbury's larger responsibility and responsibilities, hut it complicates our understanding of them by counterpointing her affair with the relationship between a sexually repressed lady juror and the (also 17-year-old) public school son she passionately loves to the point of driving him to a prostitute and the clap clinic.

There are two extremes to which trials on stage and in films can be pushed. One is the phantasmagoric eod where everything seems to he taking place in the skull of the accused, dramatising the inflamed subjective nightmare of heing rector adds, "at some level, the found out or of having to account for oneself to an inscrutable court. John Osborne's Inadmissible Evidence is an outstanding example of this with its crack". If Rattigan's play and wrecked, womanising, self-lac- Alma deny an audience that

particular pleasure, they afford many alternative ones in a piece that is "unusually frank by the standards of any period" and

that blasts apart the conven-

tional courtroom format. As Irv-

ing Wardle wrote in his Times

review of the 1977 West End

premiere: "The play offers a

perfectly coherent picture,

smashed to fragments and re-

grouped into a mosaic for the

sake of maximum suspense and

maximum revelation of char-

acter." With jump-cuts, split-

screen effects and multiple

flashbacks (to, say, a drunken

of her own songs and making a

was made of the fact that the pro-Di Trevis. A woman directing John Osborne seemed to strike some as a startling incongruity. Rather like hearing that an unrepentant Nazi was putting on a revival of The Sound of Music. Admirably, Trevis refrained from giving the proceedings an unduly feminist slant, though at the end she did allow herself the unnervingly effective stroke of showing all the play's women now ganged up in the jury box. The opposite extreme - of

which the Tricyle's Nicolas Kent, with his productions of The Nuremberg Trials and Srebrenica, focusing on the 1996 Hague War Crimes Tribunal, has of late proved himself a. master - is to stage a straight edited transcript of an actual trifavourite colour. So it was chrysalises from which new life al. The tremendous power of Srebrenica; which eventually But before we congratulate transferred to the Olivier, between the humdrum and the horrific. Appalling atrocities (the busing of 5,000 Muslims out of a UN enclave to be slaughtered by the awaiting Bosnian Serh soldiers) coolly came to light in a studiedly lowkey, realistic re-creation of a courtroom where people paused to consult facts and notebooks or to check that a set of headphones was working.

It was a reminder that the proceedings of a real court can be positively anti-dramatic: the drama was in the wholly unsensational revelation of the unspeakable. And there was, of course, the compression of the editing. By contrast, as Thomas Sutcliffe remarked in this newspaper during the Louise Woodward trial, for all the reporters' resort to theatre-derived vocabulary ("little actress", the inevitable "Greek tragedy"), there were actually very few "dramatic" moments in the protractedly televised proceedings. The minutiae of the scientific evidence numbed the mind.

Cause Célèbre offers in part - the whole adds up to so much more - the good old satisfactions of a third kind of courtroom play, the kind where the trial is a heightened metaphor for theatrical experience in general, ie prurient observation. As Neil Bartlett says, "We go to the theatre to see and hear people do and say things that nice cormal people like ourselves don't do and say." Now what does that remind one of? Bartlett has been on several research trips to the Old Bailey and is struck by it as the "kind of club of people who take their flasks and their sandwiches and go to all the trials and discuss previous cases. They are a hit like the people who always used to queue for the slip seats at Covent Garden."

Bartlett stresses the uneasy complicity you're bound to feel. One mistake Alma made was not to give the public what they wanted. She oever broke down - "and, of course," the direasoo you come to see Cause Célèbre is because you think that, at certain points, you are going to see the leading actress

pass at a policeman in a room spattered with the blood of her dead husband), the play is formaily daring and very acute about double standards. Bartlett points out that it's full of scenes of dressing and undressing - a juxtaposed pair of sequences, for example, shows how "there's much more image manipulation" on the part of the two male lawyers robing and talking about rouging over the facial effects of a late night than there is in Alma's ponderings with her female guard about

how to dress for the trial. Indeed, you sometimes feel there should be a rule of hianket nudity in courts, but that would simply set up its own hierarchy of prejudices. The wellhung would have been hanged or let off hanging according to the envy or contented voyeurism of the judge and jury. Of course, clothes are much more significant for a woman in the circumstances. Bartlett draws a parallel between Alma and Louise Woodward, caught in a sarrorial double-bind. "The Alice band and the hair swept back like a sort of junior Sloane Ranger, well, the nicety and pro-Alma dancing to a record of one priety of appearance could be seen as further proof of duplic-

ity. Similarly with Alma, wearing a smart navy blue suit set up a reaction that she had no right to wear such a garment."

Rattigan is a (in his day, unavowedly) gay playwright noted for using theatrical convention as the Trojan horse wherein he smuggled a passignate critical analysis of English repression on to the West End stage. Here, there's a nakedness that Bartlett ascribes to the fact that Rattigan's mother, to whom he showed all his scripts and who accompanied him to first nights, had died, lifting that line of censorship from him. He also knew that he himself was dying and that this would be his last work. With his flair for making period pieces resonate with contemporary concerns (and there are a bost of still-burning issues in this play - the age of consent, the use of children in trials, the effect of media coverage on the outcome etc), Bartlett looks set to do Rattigan and Alma justice.

Cause Célèbre previews from tomorrow, opens Tuesday, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, King Street, London W6 (0181-741



A verdict on gender: Alma Rattenbury escorted to the Old Bailey, and top, the crowd outside. Below: Amanda Harris and Laurence Mitchell in the new production of the play telling her tale Photographs: Hulton/ Sharon Kean Associates



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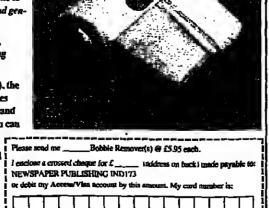
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or in Carifornia (All 1991) and Algoraphysis Problement (Al



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ersusok Navy drawstring trousers, £50, by Clements Ribeiro or Dony Perkins, Oxford Street, London WI, enquiries 0171-191 260 lac top, from a selection at TopShop, 214 Oxford Street,



om Whouse, 19-21 Argyll Street, London W1, 96 Kings Road, ondon/3, and branches nationwide, enquiries 0071-278 3491.



branches nationwide, enquiries 01865-881 986. Stylist: Holly Davies, Hair and Make-up: Helen Bannon at Mandy Coakley; Model: Nicola Moorhouse at Models One



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pedal pushers, £60, from French Connection, 249 Regent Street, London WI and branches nationwide, enquiries 0171-399 7200.

Vhy snd £1,000 on a Stella IcCarey original when you can et thook for a tenth of the . rice wn the high street? Tamsin anchefollows the journey from itwato chainstore, asks top esigns how they cope, and igge: how to mix high fashion ith gd value wearables. notouphs by Sheridan Morley.

ie fasn industry is one long chain retion, hion designer sits in ivory tower £150. skees elothes that make little comomiser the wearer. Clothes appear on twallorn by superhuman woman. Six onthser, clothes go on sale at designer putique department store at uncom-

Theory does not end there, though. mewe along the line, high-street re-

mass production. Such is the speed and sophistication of our high-street chain stores that often their version of a designer dress will appear on the rails before the original. This sequence of events is a fact of life. The designer can but feel flattered that their work is worthy of mass consumption. The consumer applauds and races out at the beginning of each season to shop at whatever level fits her wage packet. She has the choice: Stella McCartney for Chloé suit and lacy top for £1,000 plus, or a similar look - without the precision tailoring and the antique lace - from Principles for less than

Take Matthew Williamson, Last September, young Mr Williamson was fêted as the new, shining star of British fashion. His collection of 11 outfits was not scary, shocking or hideously unwearable. It was bright, pretty and thoroughly desirable. One dress in particular was singled out by the fashion press, a fuchsia-pink shift with a their own ideas, but the process is lengthy iler noises in on the action. Ideas are black chiffon overdress embroidered with and fraught, not to mention expensive and

plucked from the catwalk and reworked for a single peacock feather. And, not surprisingly, that same dress has also caught the imaginations of design teams working for high-street retailers.

"For me, it's not really a problem at the moment," says Williamson. The original dress is so expensive and exclusive - £480. and available at only a handful of chi-chi outlets - because it takes each one three days to be hand-embroidered. Each tip of the feather is beaded by hand with a needle and thread. The difference between the painstakingly made genuine article and the mass-manufactured, printed dress is like the difference between an original Picasso and an Athena print. "What I am doing cannot be reproduced on the high street. The mass-produced version can but nod to the original idea. It is not a true copy. It's weird, though, when you see the high-street version in the shops before your own designs

are on the rail." There are ways for designers to protect

time-consuming. Most designers take imitation as the sincerest form of flattery simply because they have no choice in the matter. Designers Clements Ribeiro have had to stand by and watch their luxury cashmere, multi-coloured, stripy cardigans and sweaters filter down into the mass market. Their story is different, however. The relationship between high street and high fashion can work two ways. While Matthew Williamson has no desire to offer his services as a designer for a high-street retailer, despite the fact that he has had offers, Clements Ribeiro signed a contract with Dorothy Perkins four seasons ago. Instead of simply watering down ideas from their collections for the Dorothy Perkins customer, Suzanne Clements and Inacio Ribeiro design a capsule collection tailormade for the high-street customer.

Designers have to be careful not to alienare their own customers, who will happily spend £600 on a dress, by apparently offering designs from their main collections at a tenth of the price. "It's for a completely

different person, a different customer," says Suzanne Clements. "Working for the high street, things have to be much more practical. For instance, a designer range can have high street, clothes have to pass a rip test." The designers are now fairly well adjusted to the cheaper copies they see whenever they venture on to Oxford Street round the corner from their studio. "When we first started out, I was completely outraged," says Clements, who bought all the rip-offs she Once I figured out it was not worth the battle - who wins against these giants? - I stopped letting it be an issue. Now we're being paid to rip off ourselves."

Often, the high street is not so literal. It is after all, its job to interpret trends and looks from the international catwalks. For # the mix of romance and sorious tailoring that Stella McCartney is re-injecting into Chloé, we have taken one

grey suit from Principles and teamed it with a lacy little camisole top. For the modernist minimalist look, as perfected by designers such as Calvin Klein, Richard Tyler and the most fragile chiffon dress, but for the Marc Jacobs, we have picked out a pair of satio pedal-pushers and a short-sleeved polo-neck. Drawstrings are another major trend for spring/summer; they cropped up on the catwalks of Calvin Klein, Donna Karan, Nicole Parhi and MaxMara, as well as in the collection by Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins, While Julian MacDonald could find and took them to their solicitor. bas made an art form of textural knits and painterly dévoré, Warehouse has hinted at the look with a black jersey dévoré dress layered over a fuchsia-pink slip. It won't

stand the test of time, and if it is an heirloom you're after, then invest in MacDonald, Mc-Cartney or Williamson. For a bit of one-season fashion frippery, however, take a look at your local high street and snap up some well-informed

### CONTDOWN TO LONDON FASHION WEEK

## Who said fashion was just about clothes?

mare three weeks way, t the tantrums, baes for models. nd thype contests ave gun. Melanie Rickey recks on the oung guns to see ow ty are faring efortondon Fashion leekcks into action ith t eyes of the orideriously) upon

s offil. London fashion is Nomly is London the ace pe for fashion hapminet's fashion is so popar thNew York's premier partiti store, Saks Fifth renus dedicating a whole ptent. They are calling it on the schedule," he says, "I

reference to the first one back in the Sixties when Carnaby Street was swinging.

Compelition between the young designers for a place on the schedule is particularly tough this season. Tristan Webber was lucky this time. He has been given a slot by the British Fashion Council for an official catwalk show. However, Anthony Symonds, former Graduate of the Year and Krizia designer, and Andrew the Fly Groves were not. Groves's nick-name is thanks to the finale of his debut show which featured the model Georgina Cooper removing a tailored jacket made of cotton wadding to unleash specially bred flies. Ms Cooper was sick as soon as she came off the runway. "I don't understand why I'm not

the British Invasion Part II, in have two books full of press elippings from my first show." That is true, but Groves (formerly known as Jimmy Jumble) gained no stockists. Just one shop, Covent Garden's Kob Samui, offers his clothes on a made-to-order basis. The trouble with Groves is

that he is into hype beyond anything else, much like his old friend Alexander McQueen was at the beginning of his career in 1992. Groves must be doing something right, though. He has already signed up with a big Japanese backer, and sold the worldwide rights to his name; all this before his clothes and image are famous. He acts as though fame is as sure as his next breath, and for his show Groves is guaranteed to gather an audience, despite

stylist, but more importantly he former art director, designing promises no flies, but goes on to say "it will be better than that". Expect sick-bags to be on the seats, and those with frontrow tickets fighting to sit on the back row. Who said fashinn shows were about clothes?

Maybe that is why Tristan fashion stakes. Liberty bought red leather jackets, and orchid printed chiffons. It even part financed the production costs. Koh Samui has bought a selection of his finely sculpted leather pieces.

the fact he will be clashing with to the hype machine he has a fourth-floor studio in an old pairs of VIP tickets to give away an "official" catwalk show. He made this season is to his East End brewery, and his for Triston Webber's show, cour-

has hired Judy Blame as his sponsors Tanqueray Gin, for right-hand woman and stylist which he has posed cheesily, has Simon Costin, McQueen's with the cocktail he designed, the 'Webber UV Ice'. "I wantand staging his show. He edit to smell a certain way, and have an eeric white/lilac glow 10 it," he says. That is in keeping with the theme for his collection. The cocktail contains Tanqueray, lime juice, sugar, Blue Bols and cranberry, and joins the McQueen Sling, the (Sam) McKnight Fever, and Webber is faring better on the the Bikini (for Agent Provocateur).

Webber, who is still fresh from six years at St Martin's. knows that being on the sched- sell, and if they ule is the endorsement be don't, what's needs, but also feels the pres- the point? sure of expectation. He wish-Webber believes in his es he had the facilities of a For anyone who has clothes, and is uncomfortable couture house to execute his everwanted to attend a London with hype. The only concession designs, but is making do with fashion show, we have three

Corrine Sifflet Scymour. He is also a thinker. Indeed, he says: "What I do is based on a state of mind. I need to communicate my essential vision and if people understand that, fine, If they don't, that's fine too." His show is sure to attract all the movers and shakers keeping an eye out for the next big. thing, as will Groves's, but this season it will be the clothes under scrutiny. A show is just a show, after all. It's fun, but it's the clothes that have to



and daytime phone number. The first three out of the bag will win.

Photograph by Ben Elwes

dress

....



Young at heart: Age Concern's poster featuring 56-year-old Pearl Read, challenging perceptions of older women in the workplace

## Go on, show us your bra

A glimpse of something shocking has long ceased to be, well, shocking. Now it's age that catches our eye. Kathy Marks on the latest users of underwear as

It is an arresting image. A 56year-old woman in a plunging brassiere gazes down from a billboard, in a pose reminiscent of Eva Herzigova in the infamous Wonderbra advertisements.

This time the message is political, not sexual. The charity Age Concern is making a point about our perceptions of old- over her T-shirt, and invited er women as part of its members of the audience to recampaign against age discrimination at work. The slogan on thing some people notice is her

ceptionally attractive and a woman wearing a skimpy bra the bloom of youth of the not necessarily a come hither and thus subverts the Herzigova feminine." ad-which is what Age Concern

intended. There is an imriguing subtext to this poster beyond its call for equality. Its shock value lies in the fact that it features an older model, not that it shows a woman in a revealing face. brassiere. So ubiquitous are such portraits now that we barely raise an eyebrow. Fashion, advertising and evolving social artitudes have combined to were once confined to the bedroom.

Style may be ephemeral, but it reflects more profound cultural changes. So when aggeratedly pointy bra designed by John Paul Gaultier in the early 1990s, it was not just a fashion joke; it caught the imagination. The hra, after all, bra is much more than just a

together with similar confections by Vivienne Westwood. coincided with the relaunch of the Wonderbra, embraced by properties. Soon women were exhibitions wearing little more something new and erotic. above their waists than a frothy Pregnancy signals the start of black bra.

The "underwear as outerwear" trend appears to be here

Dawn French, the generously endowed comedienne. turned up on TF1 Friday last week wearing a big white bra move it with one hand.

Marcelle D'Argy Smith, edthe poster reads: "The first itor of Woman's Journal magazine, says; "Women want to show off their bodies in a way It is, nonetheless, an unset- that they never did in the past. tling sight. True, this is an ex- It is no longer shocking to see well-preserved 56-year-old who with a transparent blouse on could easily shave a decade off top; it is not even deemed inher age. But she patently lacks appropriate at work. And it's stereotypical lingeric model. thing: it is very pretty and

Tongue at least partly in check, she adds: "We really do have the best of both worlds now. We can wear what we want and if a man comes too close, we can throw the sexual harassment rulehook in his

It was all very different in 1914, when Mary Phelps Jacobs, an American socialite, decided that she was fed up with her uncomfortable corset and, anaesthetise us to images that with the help of her French maid, tied two handkerchiefs together with pink ribbon. Thus was the early brassiere born. But it was not until 1925 that it was designed with individual Madonna appeared in an ex- cups and adjustable straps, and only in 1938 were variations in cup size introduced.

Manufacturers and advertisers realised long ago that the is a sexy and beautiful garment functional scrap of lace and cot-

which clothes the sexiest and ton. It is, in fact, a garment that a hewildering succession of success of Sophie Dahl, the most beautiful part of the fe- is central to women's self-immale body. The Gaultier bra. age at every life stage. In adolescence, girls are desperate to get into their first bras in order to prove their feminine credentials. Early boyfriends are irtegions of admirers for its push- revocably associated with up and cleavage-enhancing fumhlings to get them undone. The start of a more mature afturning up at nightclubs and art fair necessitates the purchase of

freedom."





perennially glamorous Helen Mirren, Madonna's breakthrough bra and Eva Herzigova for Wonderbra

ever more voluminous versions. Breast-feeding means those clever ones with unhookable cups for easy access.

Dr Martin Skinner, a social psychologist at the University of Warwick, says: "The history of art and fashion reflect the changing ways in which women's hreasts have heen covered, revealed and accentuated through the ages. By definition, the bra is an icon of femininity. That's why hrahurning by early feminists was such a potent symbol; the hra was seen as an object of restraint and repression. Now I suppose you could say that women have given in to constraint in the name of

If modern feminists can wear lipstick without being accused of treachery to the cause, as the writer Natasha Walter asserted in a recent hook. The New Feminism, then they can. 100, wear provocative bras with no qualms. And they do wear them, if the success of lingerie stores such as Agent Provocahad an extremely straitlaced range, has introduced whole racks of skimpy and slinky numbers.

British women, once lambasted for their reluctance to splash out on underwear, particularly compared with their Continental counterparts, are spending twice as much on it non as a decade ago. The bru husiness alone is worth £500m a year. "More and more women are prepared to spend that bit extra," says Jill Kenton, manager of Righy and Peller, corsctieres to the Queen. whose made-to-measure bras cost up to £400.

Breast sizes, too, have grown larger over the years. thanks to healthier lifestyles, better nutrition and the contraceptive Pill. In the past 10 years, the average hust has advanced from a 34B to a 36C. Manufacturers have responded with larger-cup ranges. The breasis.

voluptuously-proportioned supermodel, suggests that fashion may be turning away from women with ironing-board

And towards older women? The other interesting point about the Age Concern poster is that it suggests that the nuhile young girls who rule the roost in fashion and advertising may not, after all, have a monopoly on allure, that postmenopausal, wrinkled women are equally legitimate sexual

This was the signal that artist Melanie Manchot sought to send when she plastered huge posters of her 66-year-old mother, dressed in her underwear, on hoardings outside a busy Underground station in London last month. Sexualisation of the older woman may be starting to catch on. The charms of veteran actresses such as Helen Mirren, 51, are regularly lauded. Dazed and Confused, the men's magazine, published close-up shots of women in their sixties, seventeur is anything to go by. Even ties and eighties, clad only in Marks & Spencer, which once their underwear, in its issue last month.

The increasingly explicit. unashamedly sexy advertisements of recent years have given the bra a great deal of exposure and helped it emerge from beceath layers of outer clothes. In some ways, this is a welcome development. Perhaps a garment that defines women's shape more than any other - and is also a powerful symbol of femininity, evoking both motherhood and sexual attraction - should not he coyly concealed.

And if Pearl Read, the Age Concern model, has managed to push the boundaries that little bit further, she may be just the right woman for the job. Ten years ago she brought a ball in Berkeley Square to a standstill when she suddenly unfastened her halter-neck top and gave her astounded fellow guests an unfertered view of her

## Can you write the story of the year for six to nine year olds?

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The Independent THE INDEPENDENT Scholastic Story of the Story of the Year 6. Year Competition, now in its sixth successful year, aims to encourage top writing for the very difficult

about writing a pageturning narrative.

This week, Jilly Coop international bestselling author of Riders, Polo an Apassionata, tells Nicole

Veash about her approach to storytelli from her copious research and detailed outlines to the vital ingredients of a good love story, characterisation and humour.

### 'I submerge myself in what I'm writing'

I started writing love stories for a magazine and eventually turned these 16,000word serials into novels. I tend to write about things I am interested in. So in the 1970s I wrote a novel about showjumping because I've always loved horses. I finished the first draft of Riders but then lost the manuscript on a hus. I was devastated and I didn't have the heart to start again. So I just mooned around the showjumping circuit for years, until I felt ready to try again.



I have always done masses of research for my books. Sometimes this can take years. I

tend to suhmerge myself in the world I am writing about. When I wrote Rivals I totally lived in the television world. But I end up having miles more material than I need, which can be a problem. I'm actually trying to cut down on the amount of research I do, because it wastes so much time. I've always been fascinated by my char-

acters. I write about 10 pages of notes on each one, more if it's a main character. I write everything down, Speech, characteristics, funny quirks. When a character is right the dialogue starts writing itself.

In keeping with my need to be absolutely prepared before I start writing, I always draft a really long synopsis for my books. ter and Wind in the Willows, Spending to I feel I've got to get to grips with everything in the novel before starting. When I'm in full flow I tend to add hits here and there, going back to chapters I'm not happy with.

I try to end each chapter on an exciting joy books and eventually read to themsel.



Jilly Cooper: lost first manuscript on a bus

note and I think the ke keeping the plot movin to make it unexpect Hopefully people like characters and they k reading because they wan know what happens to the I like writing about love and sexy people and t must have some strengt C. character. My problem am now writing the sixt a series, so I have far many characters, wh makes things very confus That is why clarity bei you start is important.

I loved reading as child and books b always been hugely important to m adore Nancy Mitford, Anthony Powell Jane Austen - all very funny writers who experts at portraying social nuances.

I hope my books are a good read and t like knickerbocker glories, they have so thing for everyone. I find that people readore love stories with bappy endings that is just the sort of book I like writing. some love stories can be a hit heavy, so ways put in lots of jokes and lots about ture. I can't describe houses and things that, but descriptions of people, animals flora comes easily to me.

I used to love reading to my children wa they were younger. They adored Beatrix ! reading was really important to us. You my mother used to read aloud to me and was absolutely hrilliant. I think if you d enough to children they start to really

#### COMPETITION RULES

Story of the Year 6 offers a £2,000 prize for the winner, with £500 each for two runners up. The top 10 stories will be published in an anthology by Scholastic Children's Books. You are invited to submit stories of 1,500-2,500 words which must arrive on or before 28 February F998 at: PO BOX 2302 \* LONDON \* WC1A 1PE Your may enter only once and entries must be made by the writer, not on his/her behalf. Entries must be typewriten, double-traced and on one side of the paper only. We will not published, but published writers may enter with new ma-terial. Each entry must be submitted with both a cover terial. Each entry frust be submitted with both a Cover-page and tide page. The cover-page must feature the sto-ry tide, and the entrant's name, address and telephone must-ber. The tide page must feature only the tide of the story. The story should start on a new page, and the author's name must not feature on any of these pages, so that all entries can be judged anonymously. The winning story will be published in The independent subsequent to the final judg-ing of the competition which concludes on 72. May 1998. The cop three stories and up to 10 others will be published

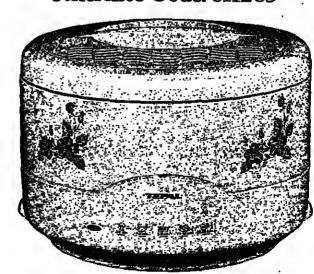
in the autumn, in the anthology Story of the Year 6 by Sci-tic Children's Books. The competition is not open to employees of, o

The competition is not open to employees or, cratives of employees of Scholastic Ltd or Newspaperishing pic or anyone connected with the competition if of possing cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. Nesponsibility can be accepted for entries which are delighted, misked or wrongly delivered. The judges' sion is final and no correspondence will be entered thirty grains to Scholastic Ltd the exclusive right to lish an entrant's story in all formats throughout the vi lish an entrant's story in all formats throughout the vi-for the full legal term of copyright. A copy of the fort the contract may be obtained on application to Sch-tc. Ltd. By submitting an entry an entrant agrees to be bi-by the terms of and to sign this agreement if called a to do so. Any story chosen for publication in the an-ogy that does not win one of the top three cash is will receive a fee of £200. Any entry not submitted is form specified will be deemed invalid. If your story is published in the anihology or in the newspaper by the of December 1998, these rights revert to you. Entry this competition implies acceptance of these rules.

### Product Recall Notice

Tefal Country Lane Deep Fryer Exclusively produced for Woolworths (£24.99)

Reference Code: 611283



Woolworths and Tefal have learned of a potential safety fault with its Tefal Country Lane Deep Fryer (code 611283). In the interests of customer safety and as a precautionary

measure, the Deep Fryer has been withdrawn from sale in all Woolworths stores.

Any customer who has purchased this product since 20th October 1997 should return it to their nearest store where a full refund will be given. A receipt is not necessary. No other products in the Woolworths Country Lane range

WOOLWORTHS

Divorce is like a big pile of manure dropped on life's path. You have to dig every last bit of it out of the way hefore you can move forward: miss any and it'll stick to the soles of your feet

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and smell for the rest of your journey. I had imagined that there wasn't that much more shit to shovel: the decree absolute was done. Beloved and I both getting on in new relationships, the kids - Busier's Celtic Soul notwithstanding - settling into some kind of new routine. Somewhere far off I thought I could hear a very fat tady clearing her throat. Come springtime I said to myself she'll be hitting the high notes tike Callas before she met Onassis. It will all be over by Easter and we can stop living with constantly elevated pulse rates and a feeling

of doom-beld-off-for-one-more-day. Hah! This particular bout of poop clearance is, it seems, like football: a game with two halves. What I thought was the final whistle turns out to have been just half time. In spite of getting the result from this match that he wanted, Beloved still wants to score some more goals.

So when Very Nice Chap (VNC) and I returned home with the kids after our weekend away there was an e-mail waiting for me: small, and as poisonpacked as a black widow.

Now, I realise in the wider context of the things ex-husbands do, a nasty one-liner is pretty small heer. Poison pen letters, stalking and threats of physical violence are the order of the day when it comes to recently divorced

hoys. In fact when I rang my hest mate and told her with trembling voice what had happened, she said that I should be thankful that he hadn't come and beaten me up and spat on me, as had her neighbour's ex.

But a single vicious assertion from a man who could only watch Silence of the Lambs fast forward from

between his fingers, who can get colicky babies to featuring in the dream were some sleep inside 10 seconds, and lose an egg and spoon race with style, is like feet as Beloved finally blew us both a brickbat in the face from an ordinary chap. It's very scary. If he can do something so out of character what else

might he do? Plant Semtex round my snowdrops? Have a private detective spy on me from my viburaums? Now, when I hear our dog growl

in the night I wonder if it really is badgers on the compost again, or Beloved, driven by mur-

derous and vengeful intent. I'm scared to go downstairs at night and crossing the yard to the garage in the dark has hecome as big a deal as it was when I was seven. I've spent the past couple

nights BELOVED AND BONK dreaming of Beloved coming after me Diary of a divorce

and VNC with

sawn-off shotgun (also miniature turkeys, flocking around our away, but that's dreams for you, doing something frivolous to distract you from the main feature). I was woken

up by the sound of whimpering and looked for the source all over the house until I clocked that it had been

Every friend who has been through divorce told me that I would get indifferent to Beloved. It was like your parents telling you that one day you'd understand why grown-ups just lie down on beaches. I didn't even want to believe it. I still don't want to. I want to believe that our donkey's years uf marriage could be put to good use as the basis for at least civility. At best a kind of friendship. I'd like to feel approved of. I'd like to be able to tell Beloved about my new life and hear about his.

Maybe I won't have to believe in indifference if I just wait for the end of the second half and extra time. After all, I was bonkers and angry in the first half, now it's Beloved's turn to kick the ball into an empty goal and throw things: I should just keep my head down. Or maybe by the time Beloved has cleared his own pile of manure from the path, by chucking it at me, things will have changed again, and I'll be glad to regard him with as much interest as a paich of drying paint. I

Stevie Morgan

لهكذا عن ألاصل

The Right Rev Lesslie Newbigin Newbight, missionary and minister of the church: born Newcastle upon Tyne 8 December 1909; ordained 1936; Bishop in Madura and ed, Church of South India 1947-59; Bishop In 21sdras 1965-74; CBE 1974: echarer in Theology, Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham 1974-79; minister, United Reformed Church, Winson Green 1980-88; married 1936 Helen Henderson (one son, three daughters); died London 30 January 1998.

Some years ago a prominent Roman Catholic theologian, who first knew Lesslie Newhigin at Vatican II, referred to this prominent Presbyterian as his father in God and spoke warmly of his missionary work, misnary thinking and varied publications. In response to protestant surprise he said Who else is there?"

Born in Northumbria to an English Presbyterian family, James Edward Lesslie Newhigin studied in a southern Quaker school, Leighton Park, before going to Cambridge. Studying economics under J.M. Keynes in preparation for work in his father's shipping husiness, he slowly left behind youthful doubt and then suddenly decided to prepare for ministerial ordination.

Partly to pay for the required theological training he worked for some time with the missionary minded Student Christian Movement where he enet Helen Henderson whom he sater married and with whom he lived happily ever after. In 1933 he returned to Cambridge for theology where he pusued his own line of thinking rather than prescribed courses. In 1936, he and Helen sailed for India as Church of Scotland missionaries, most of the journey being spent on finishing his first book, Christian Freedom in the Modern World (1937).

Appointed to the Madras area, he quickly demonstrated his phenomenal gift of excellence in whatever he attempted. He was linguist, administrator, ecclesiastic, theologian, missilemologist, author, limerick last 20 years were devoted to

writer, rock climber and doughty proclaiming the gospel as "pubfighter, but all his talents were lie truth", in the public domain used in the service of his missionary evangelistic vocation. He was a village evangelist who did it the hard way. So hard that a bus accident and then more than ten operations brought him back to England for a time.

Returning to India he was one of the architects of the Church of South India and became one of its first hishops when he was appointed in 1947 to Madura and Ramnad. This "presbyterian" bishop produced a new understanding of episcopacy and many influential books such as South India Diary (1951), The Reunion of the Church (1948), The Household of God (1953) and Sin and Salvation (1956) - translated from the original Tamil.

In 1959, he was persuaded to become general secretary of the International Missionary Coun-



Newbigin: missionary zeal

cil and saw its integration into the World Council of Churches, of which he became an associate general secretary. With some relief he left Geneva on his appointment in 1965, as Bishon of Madras where he remained until retirement in 1974.

Like William Temple, New-

higin wrote a wonderful commentary on the Gospel of John, The Light Has Come (1982), and was deeply involved in social and political issues. The chapter in his autobiography Unfinished Agenda (1985) on the Madras years is headed "Madras: Mission in Metropolis"; later, dissatisfied with the theology of the Anglican Faith in the City, he wrote the theological chapter in Faith in the ologist, preacher, pastor, epis- City of Birmingham (1988). His fore he died.

because it is not just religiously true but true all the way down.

In 1974, with two suitcases and a rucksack, he and Helen boarded countless local huses until they reached England. There they settled in Birmingham where Newbigin taught missionary theology in the Selly Oak Colleges for five years, became minister of a church opposite Winson Green prison. moderator of the United Reform Church, preached at Balmoral, worked with Holy Trinity, Brompton and began to write what might be his most influential books, The Other Side of 1984 (1983), Foolishness to the Greeks (1986) and The Gospel in a Pluralist Society (1989).

He cried ceaselessly for a missionary encounter with our hrilliant but pagan western culture. Indians with all their problems could hear the gospel and had hope; England seemed deaf to the gospel and short on hope. Europeans were good missionaries everywhere else but Europe. Post-Enlightenment culture was so hostile to the gospel that unless it was redeemed, the Church was in hazard.

Books, papers, tectures and pamphlets poured from the small typewriter which, owing to his failing eye-sight, slowly forgot how to spell. The old wounds of 50 years ago flared up, he could not read and had to be read to. He could no longer drive hut there were still huses and a white stick. Danger did not exist, he would still travel, still talk and still prav.

Throughout his life whatever he touched Lesslie Newbigin adorned and advanced, hut his final gift was something new: a new mission to a hopeless culture, for which he gave his all. Motivated by its lack of hope he faced it full of hope in the Christian good news. The movement he started, embodied in The Gospel and Our Culture, now has international ramifications and in England has been incorporated into the Bible Society. His brilliance, pastoral care and missionary zeal were all present in the two "sermons" he preached in intensive care a few hours be-

-- H. Dan Beeby



Suave: Mayne effectively bares fangs in Dance of the Vampires (1967), with Sharon Tate

### Ferdy Mayne

Ferdinand Philip Mayer-Horckel (Ferdy Mayne), actor: March 1916; married 1950 Deirdre de Peyer (two daughters; marriage dissolved 1976); died Lordington, West Sussex 30 January 1998.

A master of charmingly sty villainy, the tall dark and orbane actor Ferdy Mayne will be remembered for the effective menace he provided in countless films and television shows in his 60-year cureer, though his versality extended well beyond portraying suave duplicity, to include comedies, musicals and classic plays (his favourite role was Trigorin in The Seagull).

He was born Ferdinand Mayer-Horckel in Mayence, Germany in 1916. His father was the Judge of Mayence and his mother, who was half- a child progidy, he was enor-English, a singing teacher. Since the family was Jewish, the teenage Ferdinand was scot to England in 1932 to stay with his aunt Lee Hutchinson, a noted photographer and sculptress.

He attended Frensham Heights School prior to training for the stage at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and the Old

in Alice Through the Looking Glass with the West Croydon Repertory Company, but most of his early work came in radio - his fluent German put him in demand for propaganda havadeasts during the Second World War.

His parents had been briefly interned in Buchenwald but were fortunate enough, due to his mother's lineage, to get to England before the outbreak of war. Mayne's first West End appearance was in a German role, as Kuri Muller in Lillian Hellman's pewerful anti-Fascist play Watch on the Rhine at the Aldwych (1943), the same year that he made his screen dehut (billed as Ferdi) in Old Mother Riley Overseas.

In the highly prolific career that followed. Mayne appeared in over 80 films. In one of his earliest, Prolude to Farne (1950), as the hearty peasant father of mously touching in the scene in which he realises he must temporarily give his son up to the wealthy socialiate who can develop the boy's taleot.

Though Mayne's singing in the film was dubbed, he possessed a fine haritone voice which he displayed to effect io several West End musicals. It pearane was as the White Knight sical Belinda Fair (1949) that he bared fangs in Roman Polan-

met the actress Deidre de Peyer who became his wife - they named their first daughter Belinda in memory of the show and though they divorced in

1976 they remained close. He later played a feature role in Richard Rodgers' musical No Strings (1963) in which as the hored millionnaire diffentante Louis de Pourtal he had a solo number "The Man Who Has Everything thas nothing)", and in 1965 he took over the role of Rodgers and Hammerstein hit The Sound of Music.

Other stage work included Hauptman Schultz in Albert RN (1952), the true-life story (later filmed) of prisoners-of-war who substituted a dummy during roll-call for an escaping officer, and Judge Advocate Kunz in John Osborne's A Patriot For Me (1965) at the Royal Court.

On screeen he was a sheikh in the delightful comedy The Captain's Paradise (1953) in which Alec Guinness maintained two contrasting wives, one in North Africa and the other in Gibraltar, and in the epic tain of the vessel which rescues the hero from the wreck of the Vic School. His first stage ap- was while appearing in the mu- galley ship. Mayne effectively his family

sky's parody of Dracula movies, Dance of the Vampires (1967), an unsubtle farce which, despite a mixed reception on its initial release, has become a cult favourite, and Polanski used him again in The Pirates (1986), an equally broad pastiche of swash-

bucklers. In the war adventure Where Eagles Dare (1968) Mayne had an important role as a traditionalist Nazi general trying to curh the more vicious excesses Max in the long-running of the Gestapo, and he worked with Kubrick in Barry Lyndon (1975). His television credits included a leading role in Epitaph the role of the German officer for a Spy (1953), a six-part adaptation of Eric Ambler's espionage story, and a regular role as a chef in the series The Royalty (1957-58), which starred Margaret Lockwood as the owner of a lummy hotel. ..

In recent years Mayne filmed frequently in Europe (he was a particular favourite of German andiences) and in the mid-1970s he settled in America, working consistently until two years ago on television and in such films as The Black Staltion Returns (1983) and Conan Ben-Hur | 1959) played the cap- the Destroyer (1984), but with the onset of Parkinson's Disease he returned to England to be near

-- Tom Vallance

### George Marks

William George Marks, footballer: born Fighelde Wiltshire 9 April 1915; played for Arsenal 1936-46, Blackburn Rovers 1946-48, Bristol City 1948, Reading 1948-53; married; died Salisbury, Wiltshire 22 January 1998.

Five thousand pounds would barely buy a day's labour from a top footballer today, yet in 1946 it was enough to make George Marks the world's most expensive goalkeeper.

Curiously in such recordbreaking circumstances, his transfer from Arsenal to Blackburn Rovers came about because he was no longer wanted by the Gunners, his best years having heen lost to the Second World War.

Though he played only two League games for the north Londoners - whom he had joined from the amateur side Salisbury Corinthians in 1936 be finished the season of 1938/39 as their first-choice keeper, then went on to help them win the Football League South Cup in 1942/43. Most notably, though, he highlighted his potential by representing England in eight wartime internationals between 1941 and 1943,

Official caps were not awarded for these matches, availability of players being something of a lottery at the time, yet Marks's selection for his country alongside the likes of Stanley Matthews and Tommy Lawton reflected the immense regard in which he was held and proved he was one of the most accomplished net-minders of his era.

However Marks, who had



Marks: expensive goalkeeper

servea who the war, lost his Highbury place to George Swindin in January 1946 after failing to gain leave to play in an FA Cup tie. Seven months later came the move to Blackburn, for whom he played magnificently for half a season before suffering a severe jaw injury. Thereafter a combination of fluctuating form and the fact that he lived and trained in his native West Country combined to bring about a transfer to Bristol City in August 1948.

Two months later Marks. now 33, signed for Readingwhom he served nobly in the old Third Division South until 1953. There followed two years as a trainer-coach at Elm Park before he left the professional game, no doubt wondering what might have been had the war not coincided with his footballing pomp.

Marks, a delightfully modest fellow, spent the remainder of his working life as a local government officer in his native Wiltshire.

- Ivan Ponting

## **Dr Robert McIntyre**

Robert Douglas McIntyre, physician and politician: born Datziel, Lanarkshire 15 December 1913; married 1954 Letitia Macleod (one son); MP (Scottish Nationalist), Motherwell and Wishaw 1945; Chairman, Scottish National Party 1948-56, President 1958-80; died Stirling 2 February

Dr Robert McIntyre is regarded as the father of the SNP. He had the distinction of being the Scottish National Party's first MP and remained for the next 50 years the friend and mentor of its members and leadership. Towards the end of the Sec-

he won Motherwell at a byelection and held it until the General Election that July: he packed many speeches into his fused to recognise him. This three months at Westminster; those on education and Scotland ring as true today as then.

He took the straightforward view, shared nowadays by more and more voters, that it is absurd for Scotland to be ruled from England, and he welcomed Scotland's entry to the European Union as a full member like Belgium, Ireland, Finland, and other small countries. died of his own speciality.

The press at the time (never a friend of the SNP) accused him wrongly of refusing to take throughout Scotland, standing as the Oath of Allegiance to the a parliamentary candidate in ery at a meeting in a room in Stir-

ond World War, in April 1945, Crown, In fact, he could not find the requisite two sponsors. So he walked down to the Speaker's chair alone. The Speaker reepisode reflected badly on the House of Commons and two sponsors did emerge.

A son of the Manse, McIntyre qualifed as a doctor at Edinhurgh University and specialised in chest complaints. He went on to be consultant chest physician for Stirlingshire and Clackmannan from 1951 to 1979. As so often happens, he

During the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s he huilt up the party

general election from 1945 to ling packed with SNP candiactivists to stand as candidates. 1 ical speech was given in his constituency in his presence, and this led to my name being put forward for the by-election at Hamilton willing to give me advice on all political maners, particularly as to how to cope as a lone SNP MP with benchfuls of Labour MPs from Scotland whose behaviour I found despicable.

The SNP now contest every Westminster seat. But it was not always the case. I remember how movingly McIntyre spoke

1974 and in a by-election in 1971 dates. "Once I had to use all the - 13 times. He also encouraged arts of persuasion to find one man or one woman to stand so was one of them. My first polit- that I would not be our only candidate. Now when I look around this room, for the first time I know in my heart we shall win Scotland free." Punch once in November 1967. He was always carried a cartoon of him brandishing a sword with the caption. "McInnirely Alone".

McIntyre had an intense love of sailing. He was known to all in the Scottish National Party as "Doc Mac", and admired by us and by thousands of Scots for his dour struggle for our independence through all the wilderness years.

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

STAMP: Peacefully on 29 January at the Rawal Free Hospital after a short illness. Frances Bosworth, aged 89. Widow of the 3rd Baron Stamp of Shortlands, and beloved mother of Trevor and Richard, and grandmether of Catherine, Emma, Lucinda and Nicholas. The funeral will be held at Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row, NW3 on Friday 6 February at 11.30am. No flowers please but donations if desired to The League of Friends of Challey Heritage for Severely Physically Handicapped Children go Richard Stamp.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Indendent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld 5DL, telephoned to 0171-273 2012 or faxed to 0177-293 2010. Charges are 66-50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Deles of York, Patron, opens The Princess Louise Wing Outpatient Department of the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital, Gray's Inn Road,

Changing of the Guard The incusehold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Hant, F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Sucklingham Palace, 11 30am, band provided by the Coldsmean Guards.

### Birthdays

'Doc Mac': dour struggle for Scottish independence

Mr Peter Allen, broadcaster, 52; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Ashmore, 77; The Hon Sir Clive Bossom Bt, for-mer MP, 80; Professor John Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, 51; Mr Jim Cunningham MP, 57; Dr PE. Thompson Hancock, specialist in cancer treatment, 94; Lord Haslam, former chairman, British Coal, 75; Mr former charman, Suisa Coal, 73, Mr David Russell Hoban, author, 73; Mr David Malouf, novelist, 64; The Hon Mrs Ray Michie MP, 64; Mr Stanley Newens MEP, 68; Sir Michael Nicholson, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 65; Dr James McIntosh Patrick, painter and etcher. 91: Mr Charles Pollard, chief con-stable, Thames Valley, 53: Mr William Ross MP, 62; Lord Ryder of Wensum, former MP, 49; Lord Shawcross OC, former Attorney General and former Chancellor, Sussex University. 96; Mr John Willan, former managing director. London Phil-harmonic, 55; Mr Norman Wisdom, actor and comedian, 83; Sir Christopher Zeeman, former principal, Hertford College, Oxford, 73.

**Anniversaries** 

Births: Pierre Carlet de Chamblain de Marivaux, playwright and novelist. 1688; Myles Birket Fister, painter. 1825; Richard d'Ivry (Richard Yrvid), composer, 1829; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1838; Charles Augustus Lindbergh, aviator, 1902; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, 1900; Ida Lupino, film actress, producer and writer, 1918. Deaths: Antonio Pollaiuolo (de Jacobo Benci). Florentine sculptor,

1498; Pompeo Girolamo Batoni, painter, 1787; Karen Carpenter, singer, 1983; Liberace (Władiziu Valentino), entertainer, 1987. On this day: the Ashanti War ended following the Battle of Kumasi, 1874; the command of the German Army was assumed by Adolf Hitler, 1938; the Yalta Conference opened, when Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met, 1945; Ceylon (later known as Sri Lanka) became an independent state. 1948; sweet radoning ended in Britain. 1953; the Sunday Times issued the first colour supplement in Britain, 1962. Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew Corsini, bishop. St Isidore of Pelusium, St Joan of Valois, St John de Britto, St Joseph nf essa, St Modan, St Nicholas Studites, St Phileas, St Rembert and St Theophilus the Penitent.

Lectures National Gallery: Alexander Stur-gis, "Van Eyck (1): the art of Jan van

gis, "Van Eyek (1): the art of Jah van Eyek, 1pm; Alan Bennett, "Spoilt for Choice", 6.30pm. Tate Gallery: Christine Boyanoski, "The Neo-Romantic Landscape: Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Graham Sutherland", 1pm. Wallace Collection: Rosalind Savill, "Gold Boxes", 1pm.

Coningsby Club

The Committee of the Coningsby Club hosted a dinner last night at the Cariton Club, London SW1. The guest of honour and speaker was Mr Peter Lilley MP, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr Martin Calderbank presided.

### LAW REPORT: 4 FEBRUARY 1998

## Private prosecution was not an abuse of process

The launching of a private prosecution against a young person charging him with an offence for which he had received a police caution was not an abuse of the process of the court. H v L and another, Queen's Bench

Divisional Court (Lord Justice Schiemann and Mr Justice Poole) 29

The Divisional Count allowed the appellant's appeal by way of case private prosecution brought by him as being an abuse of the process of the court.

The appellant's son had been lice, each having had the benethat such cautions did not prechude the bringing of proceed- vious good character.

ings by an aggravated party. The appellant subsequently laid informations against

the respondents, alleging affray and assault occasioning actual bodily harm. The justices found that because the reby the police, the proceedings should be stayed as an abuse of the process of the court, and dismissed the informations. Luke Blackburn (John Hayrer, Southend-on-Sea) for the appellant; stated against the decision of the John Livingson (Diver Harvey & adopted by the local police of Basildoo Youth Court to stay a Philippu, Basildon) for the respondents

Mr Justice Poole said that the justices had said in the case stat- behalf of the appellant that the ed that they were of the opin-reasons pul forward in the assaulted by the respondents, ion that cautioning provided an case stated were not ones causing him actual bodily harm. important alternative to pros-They were cautioned by the po- ecution in the case of a young offender where there had been proper finding of law. There fit of legal advice, and signed a an admission of guilt, and in apform which indicated in terms propriate circumstances, such as the respondents in the prosewhere the offender was of pre- cution, and proceedings should tion 6(1) of the Prosecution of would be allowed.

cautions to the respondents was not a bar to the institution of criminal proceedings by the appellant in relation to offences arising out of the same incident in respect of which they had been spondents had been cautioned cautioned, the justices had found that it was unfair and oppressive to the respondents to allow the proceedings to continue as that would frustrate the purpose of cautioning them, and would, further, undermine the policy

> appropriate circumstances. It had been submitted on which could have been used by the magistrates to make a was no potential unfairness to The right of private prosecution

cautioning young offenders in

circumstances.

Counsel for the respondents had argued that the very purpose of the cautioning procedure would be seriously and adversely affected if private prosecutions of offenders who had been cautioned were routinely permitted, and that such prosecutions should be stayed except where the prosecutor could successfully argue on the facts of the particular case that the police had acted wrongly or unreasonably in resorting to the cautioning procedure.

That argument, if accepted, would present a most significant constraint upon private prosecutions which had not existed previously and which had never been contemplated by either the courts or the legislature. be stayed as an abuse of Offenders Act 1985. It was

Whilst the administering of process only in exceptional subject to a number of procedural limitations, and the court should not, in effect, add what would amount to a further category of restraint. Whether an offender's admission, explicit in every caution case, could be used against him in a subsequent prosecution was a matter for the court's discretion. both at common law and under section 78 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

The reasons put forward in the case stated were not ones that could properly be used by the magistrates to make a proper finding of law, there was no unfairness or potential unfairness to the respondents in the proposed prosecution; and the trial process contained sufficient common law and statutory mechanisms to ensure fairness in circumstances such was expressly preserved by sec- as the present. The appeal



**EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT** DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARE. LONDON Et 4 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435

Tony Blair flies off today to consort with the President of the United States. A love feast is prepared. The two men have a lot in common, starting with wives of considerable distinction. They share something else. In both their countries a large chunk of media power is exercised by the same corporate conglomerate controlled by a single man, Rupert Murdoch. His sway in American politics is a good deal less than the influence he enjoys in this country. Not even the most imaginative paranoid can trace a pattern in the products of the Murdoch-owned Fox television and 20th Century Fox film, Bart Simpson and Independence Day included. But then again not even the biggest sceptic could deny Murdoch's role in hankrolling the American right: if there is, as Mrs Clinton so memorably affirmed, a right-wing conspiracy out to do her husband down, rest assured Rupert Murdoch's fingers are somewhere in the pie.

As for Britain, Murdoch is a man to

whom a Labour prime minister opens the doors of Downing Street, the potentate to whom, mysteriously, party policies on concentrations of power and competition are not to be applied. So will Messrs Blair and Clinton confer on how they perceive the power of Citizen Murdoch? Bill Clinton ought to tell him what the United States Department of the Treasury has been up to, and as a result Tony Blair might, just might, return to Britain with a gram or two more calcium in his backbone, prepared to look again at his pusillanimous and profoundly mistaken approach to the power of Murdoch.

Led by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States, tax officials from several countries recently got together to swop notes on the global reach of News Corp, the Australian-based entity Murdoch uses to rule his empire. They confront a striking question. Why does News Corp pay an effective corporation tax rate of just under 8 per cent while comparable media

entities, such as Disney, pay nearly four times as much?

Let's be clear that the problem with Murdoch is not his success or his reach. News International -- the British arm of the empire - is quick to allege that rivals are merely jealous, that they are anti-enterprise. Wrong. Murdoch's acumen as a businessman has been as a manipulator of the state. He is a connoisseur of regulatory regimes. He uses his property to do his politics. The News Corp story is a tale of tax havens, write-offs, accounting rules and clever balance sheet manipulation across different jurisdictions. It reports results in Australia which, if presented under US rules, would look dramatically different. Globalisation, in Murdoch terms, is the science of outsmarting national tax authorities. The man admitted to Blair's boudoir is a titanic tax avoider.

The thing to register is that the Murdoch empire is huilt on lack of transparency. This must be borne in mind when

he pleads innocent to charges that he is a predator in British media markets, siphoning off money bere to subsidise aggression there. Exactly what are internal relationships between News Internationai and the (part-owned) BSkyB, let alone his other telecoms and transport interests? The answer is that there are very few people inside the loop who know, let alone external competition regulators. Is Mnrdoch using funds from broadcasting to supply his newspaper operations in order to afford sustained price-cutting? The impact of those price cuts on the market is palpable. We at The Independent feel cuts in the cover price of The Times, and it hurts.

But the argument goes much wider than the fate of one newspaper and the resulting minimisation of pluralism in the market for news and opinion. It has two legs. One is about the effectiveness of competition rules and the regulatory bodies meant to enforce them. The Blair government's Competition Bill fails to give

the United Kingdom rules on predatory pricing anywhere near as tough as those in the United States or even Australia. If it passes in its present form, however keen Derek Morris, the chairman in waiting of the new Competition Commission, might be to investigate, his hands will be tied. With his lobbying might Murdoch seems likely to escape invigilation.

But there is a second reason why the complaisance of New Labour about Murdoch is shocking. Murdoch is an overmighty foreigner in our midst. Any prime ( minister (remember those famous words of Tory Stanley Baldwin) ought to be concerned about unaccountable power, especially as it is brought to bear in the political arena. Yet Blair demurs, his henchmen exulting in their friendship with Murdoch's children and satraps. Has this prime minister no pride? Talk to Mr Clinton, Tony, and ask yourself why a predator who would not be tolerated in the United States can flourish untouched here.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

**LETTERS** 

CHRIS SMITH INTRODUCES HIMSELF.

TO THE LOTTERY WATCHDOG .....

#### Drink-drive laws

ti seems that nothing, in recent memory, has aroused such universal compliance as the nation's collective repugnance for drink-driving. Such moral high ground, and the rush to be part of it, should be regarded with some suspicion. Two pints does not make a drunk, yet getting caught is likely to brand you a "drunk-driver" for the rest of your life (report, 3 February).

Most people who stop for a drink leave after two pints. I do it, as do many of my friends. We're not drunks, fiends, or killers of children on zebra crossings, and after two pints we obey every cat's-eye. We actually drive more carefully after two pints.

Our reactions are not any slower than they are first thing in the morning, when we are in a hurry to get to work, suffering from a cold, daydreaming, angry, preoccupied, or in any of the states of mind and body we drive in, and about which there can be no legislation. Five hundred "alcohol-related" road deaths amongst tens of thousands of others. A little out of proportion, don't you think?

I'm asking for someone to speak out for the two-pints drinker, who wants to drive home without fear of being an easy target for a lazy police statistic. It's time to stop this hysterical scapegoating of people who are doing nothing wrong. JAMES HANNAWAY Tring, Hertfordshire

A contribution towards reducing the numbers of drivers who have had too much to drink at the pub would be to ensure that soft drinks are sold at a competitive price.

Often my pint of coke is only a few pence cheaper than my husband's pint of heer. The price of a pint of beer is inflated by the taxation levied upon it - wby does my soft drink cost about the same amount? MEGAN C ROBERTSON Crewe, Cheshire

### Anti-culture club

Julian Lloyd Webber ("Stop the dictators of modern music", 22 Fehruary) and others who insist on performing classical works by dead and populist composers are not pro-culture. hut anti-cutture. For every performance of Schumann's Cello Concerto, or CD sale of Britten, there are at least 30 professional musicians, a concommanding figures for which most young composers could create a whole new work of art.

ple want to hear contemporary ber espouses.

No audience, orchestra or cellist should try to influence what is felt by minds more creative and sensitive than their own and living composers should not allow their curiosity to be marginalised by mediocrity and commercialism. If it is true that only the best art survives its own lifetime, we will never discover what is best in the music of today if it is not heard. MARTIN PARKER

ductor and a fashionable soloist It is a myth that very few peo-

art music. The problem is that the people who don't want to hear it are the ones who have the most disposable income, the most free time, and the loudest voices. If there is a dictatorship of modern music, these people provide it, sustaining the 1990s "burns on seats" justification for artistic enterprise that Mr Web-

Penkridge, Staffordshire

There is one factor above all others which determines that atonal new classical music (no harmony, no melody, no key nor rhythm) reaches the public ear rather than new work by tonal classical composers: the almost total broadcast monopoly of new classical music

possessed by Radio 3. Imagine if there was only one publisher of new literary fiction in the entire country. That is the relation a composer has to Radio 3. In this realm, Radio 3 is an absolute totalitarian state. It is an utter anomaly in the multi-media age. KEITH BURSTEIN

### Saving the planet

London SW17

I should like to counter the suggestion by Hugh Aldersey-Williams (report, 2 Fehruary) that, in setting a target of a 20 per cent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2010, the British government is guilty of harm-

It is certainly an ambitious undertaking, but attainable. However, public support for such a target may be more forthcoming if the spotlight shifts from global warming to things that more directly and immediately concern us.

For example, with 8 million households receiving some form of benefit, we can assume that a high proportion of these and the "nearly poor" are victims of fuel poverty. Cutting their fuel bills in half by raising the thermal efficiency of their homes would meet an acute social need whilst generating jobs and cutting down on the £Ibn annual health bill attributable to poor housing.

The greatest energy cost in commercial buildings is the electricity hill for lighting. Using the latest lighting technology, the lighting load could be reduced, even in older buildings, at the same time improving on current illumination standards for work stations. New offices that are naturally ventilated

and lit not only save energy; they also produce more amenable working conditions. In cases where corporate headquarters have moved to new "green" premises the result has been a

significant cut in absenteeism. Setting a target date around 2005 for zero-emission city centres would propel car manufacturers into mass producing bybrid vehicles that could be electrically powered in pollution-free zones or when pollution levels are high. What about the new baby Jaguar setting the example? Cleaner air could be a very attractive by-product of

the 20 per cent CO- cut. Greater stress should be laid on strategies where saving the planet for future generations coincides with tackling more immediate social, health and economic problems. Professor PETER F SMITH Chairman, Environment and Planning Committee

Royal Institute of British

### A mongrel language

Mrs H Marie Bell (letter, 30 January) recommends phonetic spelling reform to encourage early literacy in children. Fine! Let's write "ov" for "of", "hed" for "head" and eliminate "gh". Go heyond such timid steps, however, and you force millions worldwide to bow down to RP. Try selling that.

And once children have learned to read only the new code, try getting them to take an interest in the 600 years of English literature which will all suddenly look archaic. Or will they just scroll up a few controver-

sially re-spelt Internet versions? While localised, ethnically pure, languages like German can promote a degree of cohesion by imposing a phonetic system favourable to the élite dialect, I'm afraid our haplessly universal and mongrel language can only retain its own cohesion by, in the main, sticking to its historical morpholo-

gy, to grasp which, incidentally, is an education in itself. BERNARD NOBLE The Hague, Netherlands

### Quick cash.

PRIESTLEY

Nigel Pascoe QC, of the Bar Council, says that the QC system recognises ability "in the same way as the appointment of a hospital consultant" ("Barristers attacked for price-fixing as think-tank calls for silk cut", 2 February). Not in remuneration it doesn't! The NHS pays a hospital consultant approximately £150 a day while, on your figures, a QC gets £1,350 a day from legal aid. Does QC stand for Questionable Comparisons? ANDREW A JEFFREY Roade, Northamptonshire

### You show me yours

Does Iraq have the right to inspect the West's weapons of mass destruction? PAUL O'HANLON Runcom, Cheshire

#### Thanks to Europe

Phyllida Barstow (letter, 31 January) relates how crossing the Channel used to be an adventure, everything on the other side looking, smelling and tasting different.

I too vividly remember crossing the Channel, into a country in which it was impossible to get a decent meal in whole counties. because even if the ingredients were available, nobody knew what to do with them. A land where women left church early to put the cabbage on, and where the delicatessen was a newsagent's that sold milk.

If England now looks, smells and tastes not that much different from Europe, let us thank our lucky stars. NICOLAS du Q BIRD Bath, Somerset

Phyllida Barstow is overly despondent about the "dead hand of the European Union".

EU-based firms have responded by drawing attention to the national provenance of their products or the brand name. Audi has a sensationally effective "this car is German" message ("Vorsprung durch Technik"). VW has made a virtue of Germanic obsession with detail, and advertising has taught us that Beck's beer is made by the "hrewmen of Breff) men, Germany".

Such marketing strategies have impact for the simple reason that most people in the EU still believe in the reality of national differences. Ask Nicole and her Papa. Professor DAVID HEAD Department of Modern

Languages University of Northumbria at Newcastle

### All in the mind

Your article on George Dyson (Hypewatch, ISM, 31 January), mentions a dynasty of technogurus. You might have mentioned his mother, Verena Huher-Dyson, a distinguished mathematical logician. On retirement off the coast

of British Columbia, she joined the local yacht club to learn navigation. When the class was assigned exercises, the other potential yachtspersons complained that "that lady" always solved all the problems in her head IAN HACKING All Souls College Oxford

### The greatest story ever told – again, and this time, no one gets nailed to a cross



KINGTON

It was only a matter of time before Disney decided to go for the ultimate and make an animated film based on the life of Jesus. This brave decision has been made partly because it makes sense from a Millennium marketing point of view, partly because there aren't many Old World classics left that they haven't already dealt with.

To allay fears about the Disney treatment of a Bible story, Disney executives have been giving interviews to selected members of the press, and I was lucky enough to have five minutes with Ralph J Kleinmut, who is Chief Disney Jesus Story Co-ordinator, Europe. Here they are. (The five minutes.) Me: Doesn't it seem a strange idea to retell

quite well told? Disney: Has it? By whom? Me: In the Bible.

Disney: Oh, right! Well, in a sense, that helps our case, because there are at least four versions of the Jesus story in the Bible, done a happy ending ...? After all, you totally

by Mark, Matthew. Luke and John. So doing different versions is not a new idea. Me: So this will be the gospel according to Disney?

Disney: Right! Don't forget that many other people have retold the story, too. Norman Mailer, most recently, and your very own Lloyd Webber and Rice. Me: They are not my very own.

Disney: Well, they're somebody's. Maybe ours. Yes, I think Rice is ours. Me: In all modern Disney films, the hero has been impossibly chunky, with vacant

Hollywood beefcake looks. Will this apply to Jesus too? Disney: We are still auditioning for the part the Bible story, when it has already been of Jesus. Me: You have to audition for an animated

> part? Disney: For the voice, yes. Me: But how will you draw him? And will there be a love interest? And will there be

changed the end of The Hunchback of Notre Disney: Wait, wait! Steady on. We're still formulating the beginning of the film.

We've established Jesus as a baby in the Me: Gurgling and chuckling, like Mowgli in The Jungle Book? Already doing miracles in the crib? With the animals making googoo eyes over the edge of the cot? And

the baby donkeys and oxen playing games, tossing the gold, myrth and frankincense back and forth? And a few birds singing gospel songs in black voices? Disney: Why, yes! How did you know? Me: I have seen Disney films before, you

know. How are you visualising the 12 disciples? Disney: As of right now, we are envisaging only seven disciples. They will be called Hap-

py, Saintly, Holy, Moly, Goodly, Godly, and Doubtful Me: Doubtful?

Disney: Yes. He is based loosely on Doubting Thomas, and he will be the cute, comic

Me: How do you have a cute, comic disciple? Disney: Because whenever he prays he gets the wrong answer to his prayers.

Me: Hmm. Will the disciples be dwarves? Disney: No. That would not be dignified. But Pontius Pilate will probably be a dwarf. Me: Why? Disney: So that people do not feel sorry for

him when he gets zapped. Me: Pardon? Disney: We have been rethinking the end

to the New Testament story. Me: Hold on. Do you mean that Jesus doesn't get crucified?

Disney: Disney has never been pro-violence. We are very sensitive to any accusations that children might be corrupted by on-screen violence.

Me: Do you mean that Jesus does not Aide: I'm sorry. Five minutes is up.

actually get crucified in the end? Disney: The whole message of the New Testament is that Jesus is alive at the end. He doesn't die in the long run. The important thing is to affirm that Jesus is living. Me: Do you mean that Jesus doesn't get crocified?

Disney: Well, we don't say that he isn't crucified. But it all takes place a little off-screen. The point we are emphasising is that Pontius Pilate will get his comeuppance. That's what people are going to cheer for. Me: When he gets zapped?

Disney: By a thunderbolt. Pow! Me: And he dies?

Disney: No. He gets changed into a fish. Me: A fish? Disacy: And gets chased by the shark.

Me: What shark? Disney: The shark that helps Jesus walk on the water. Me: But what ...?

لمكذا من ألاصل

## 19/COMMENT

## Bill or Tony: which one will history remember?



### HAMISH MCRAE IN SEARCH OF THAT BIG IDEA

David Broder, the columnist on The Washington Post, made an interesting comparison yesterday between Bill Clinton and Tony Blair. He told Radio 4's Today programme that Blair had, in practice, more political power than Clinton, and might go down in the history books as more important - just as Margaret Thatcher would seem more important than Ronald Reagan.

It might seem a little startling to have a top US columnist suggest that Thatcher was more important than Reagan: the latter did after all "win" the Cold War. But if you try and the down the personal element of the achievement and the influence projected beyond the coontry's national borders I think the judgement is pretty fair. The US victory over the Soviet Union was not so much a personal achievement of the President, but the cumulative effect of US economic and technical might competing against an economic system that was already falling apart. Margaret Thatcher, working out of a much weaker power-base - the demoralised strikeridden Britain of 1979 - established a set of ideas which continue to sweep the world.

Not only was Britain the first developed country to promote the notion that governments should seek to become smaller rather than larger, the practical application of that notion became Britain's biggest post-war intellectual export. Last year, China announced the privatisation of its state industries; more than 100 million people on the other side of the world are now having the nature of their employment changed as a result of an idea developed here under Margaret Thatcher.

Now apply the same benchmark to Clinton and Blair: are they developing and promoting ideas that could conceivably sweep the world?

I don't see much that can be attributed directly to Bill Clinton. If you look at the hig issues that need to be tackled in the US and see where the new ideas are coming from, they are all bottom-up. Things like the Wisconsin programme to transfer people from welfare to work or the attack on crime in New York are now attracting enormous attention elsewhere in the world (including the UK), but these have nothing to do with the President. If you were looking for a US figure whose ideas might come to have world resonance I guess you might turn to Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board: but the reality is that US influence in the world is much more a general result of economic success than a result of presi-

And Tony Blair? Well, we don't know, do we? It is quite easy to sketch how the role of government is likely to change over the next generation, how the UK happens to be in the

process of change, and how Tony Blair has the authority to push it through. But will he?

The quest of Tony Blair is often presented as finding some middle way between the effective but brutal version of market capitalism in America and the faltering welfare state model of Europe. I think actually the challenge to developed-country government is more subtle and more interesting. It is how to redefine the proper role of government in a way that will both foster a more efficient economy and protect, encourage and empower the weakest citizens.

The continental European model has been to get the government to provide the service: to run an extensive (and in many ways excellent) social welfare system as well as building nuclear power stations, high-speed rail links and pouring money into banks like Credit Lyonnais. We here have been feeling our way towards a different model, one which makes the distinction between the state's responsibility to ensure adequate services and the actual provision of those services. The weapons have been privatisation and regulation: do less and regulate more.

Unsurprisingly we have made a lot of mistakes. Many services that remain largely in public hands (health and education) are not fully satisfying the customers; some services that have been passed to the private sector (eg Virgin's west coast railway line) have yet to do so. Our regulators have had to learn as they go along, and some of them have performed better than others.

What we cannot yet know is whether the Blair government (or governments if he gets back) will just refine and improve this mix of private and public provision, a "let's see what seems to work and give it a push" approach. That is what seems to be happening now: a bit more private sector initiative here, a hit more regulation there; a bit of publicsector spending on the Millennium Dome, a hit of public-sector dosh for the Channel link, a hit of private money for the tube.

There is nothing wrong with that, Indeed it may be the best way of learning how governments will have to behave over the next generation: do not have too many grand ideas; just try not to make a mess of things. But it is not going to be a Big fdea we will export to the world. We may export lots of small ideas, as does the US at the moment; but Tony Blair will reap no more credit than Bill Clinton.

There is, however, the outline of a Big Idea floating around, bits of which you can discern both from Tony Blair's speeches and from some government actions. It is that govemments will redefine the frontier between what is proper for the public sector and what is proper for the private sector by changing people's perception of their own responsibilities. In other words the state will do less not by abdicating its responsibilities, but by changing people's behaviour so that it does not need to do so much.

Thus single mothers will not need to ref

so much on other taxpayers to support them because they will be able to support themselves. People will not need to use the NHS so much because they are smoking less, exercising and eating healthier foods. We will get richer because we will learn to behave better. This is a concept of government which is really breathtakingly bold, a Big Idca that really would change the entire way in which governments operate in developed countries in the next century. In fact it is really the only way out of the bind in which governments find themselves, caught between higher expectations and smaller resources to fulfil those expectations. And if the message is to "behave better", Mr Blair has a significant right position to be a potential leader in that advantage over the man in the Oval Office.

## So Texas thinks this is a humane substitute for the electric chair?



### PAUL VALLELY IN THE DEATH CHAMBER

Blue is the colour of death in Huntsville, Texas, Pale blue, I know because I have been inside the chamber in which the lethal injection is administered. Indeed I have leaned against the padded metal gurney to which Karla Faye Tucker was last night due to be strapped. 1 looked up. Overhead was a neon light and the ceiling of powder blue. Such is the final earthly sight of the condemned prisoner. "A psychologist suggested that colour," the assistant warden told me. "It is very relaxing." It minimises the urge to struggle, apparently.

The gurney is the only piece of furniture in the death chamber in the Walls Unit of the Texas Department of Corrections prison. To the side is a window like that of the control booth in a TV studio. Karla Tucker nominated five people to watch her die from behind the thick plate glass, the maximum number of personal witnesses allowed. Three relatives of her victims also asked to be present.

But there is another room, hidden from the view of the condemned individual. It houses the equipment from which the fatal cocktail is administered by an official who cannot see the person the state has decided to kill. Three tubes feed into a single catheter which passes through the wall and to the gurney. Along it passes pavulon (a muscle relaxant), sodium thiopental (the lethal poison) and potassium chloride (which stops the heart dead). "If you don't get the balance right," the assistant governor told me, "he would kick like a horse".

It was "be" in those days. Executions are a pretty routine thing in Texas. But they were all men. Karla Faye Tucker is the first woman to be executed there since the American Civil War, "I don't like doing it, but it is a part of my job," said the man responsible for the protocol of the executions as he outlined the rules on who is allowed to visit in the Death Cell and on the convict's last shower, change of clothes and final meal. Karla Tucker, we are told, requested a banana,



Very healthy.

There is a ghastly irony about so much to do with the execution process. Apart from the thick broad straps of fawn leather by the metal bed, the atmosphere in the chamber is medical. There is a strap to wrap around the condemned arm just like the one the doctor uses when you have a blood sample taken. And before the deadly needle is inserted, the arm is thoughtfully swabbed with disinfectant. The person who inserts the needle in the arm is not the same one who then activates

peaches and a tossed salad. until the new technology made him redundant. His contempt for the lethal injection was almost palpable.

"If a man is sentenced to death, he ought to have something to fear rather than a needle which less him go to sleep. When you kick that motor on and you hear it most - well, that gets him a little upset, "said the grizzled old executioner over coffee at a small-town diner where the tables were covered in red-checked gingham. I recalled the story that a former head of the Texas prison service had told me, "I had to supervise every day that they were to be

people believed him.

Looking into the eyes of a man who is condemned to die it is hard to resist the temptation to make a judgement. The young Hispanic convict sat in a metal cage and peered through a slot of thick reinforced glass. For some reason throughout the interview I was seized with the compulsion that I had to decide whether I believed him. "The courts should stop playing these games. If one of us kidnapped someone and locked them up for ten years and told them

tained his innocence, but few is a human being speaking. Is it right to do this?"

All at once I was overcome with the certainty that he was guilty. And yet, at the same time, I knew his guilt was a matter of utter irrelevance in the face of what was about to happen. He was one of 250 men and three women on Death Row. They were not the only murderers in the jail, and indeed many of those not under sentence of death had committed crimes far more beinous. But they had lost in the legal lottery in a state where 90 per cent of cases are settled by plea bargaining in which the accused accepts a lighter sentence in return for a guilty plea. It was the poor, the simple and the mept who ended up on Death Row, the ones who couldn't afford a decent

If only Karla Tucker had had one she might have been able to transform her case into a gender issue earlier, just as O J Simpson turned his trial into one about race and Louise Woodward's became one about to work. Had Tucker harnessed at a much earlier stage the support which has mushroomed from born-again Christians (after her conversion), anti-death penalty liberals and most latterly women's groups, it might have been a different story. But for Karla Tucker fame, it seems, came a little too late.

### Before the deadly needle is inserted the arm of the condemned prisoner is thoughtfully swabbed with disinfectant

the plunger, so that responsi- 14 executions," Dr George Beto killed, people would say it was bility is shared, just as with a firgiven blanks. No doctors are inon hand to certify death) and yet there seems about the process an unnatural and rather wilful inversion of the Hippocratic Oath, much as there is in satanic parodies of Christian worship. In this atmosphere the cold courtesy of the prison officials

All this was some years ago. had gone to Huntsville not long after Texas abandoned death by electrocution for the "more humane" injection. Just down the road from the redbrick jail, I met Sam Gilstrap, who for 26 years had been the master mechanic for the electric chair

seemed to me to be chilling.

Low. Sweet Charlot" as he tion; it is the very san chamber. I couldn't see him at first, I could just bear him coming along the hall. Even today that song makes my flesh creep." But Sam Gilstrap had taken part in 125 executions. At night, he said, he slept well

I returned to the jail and Death Row where I had arranged to interview the next man to be executed, Carlos De Luna. He was a 24-year-old who had been convicted of stabbing to death a petrol station attendant in the town of Corpus Christi, in southern Texas, three vears before. All along he main-

had said. "The worst was that a barbaric crime, but for the ing squad some soldiers are of a black man who sang "Swing state it is legal. It is like aborvolved in the act (though one is walked from the cell to the who are against killing babies who are in favour of killing me,"

It was, I remember thinking at the time, not a diatribe so much as an expression of bewilderment. The reason 1 agreed to talk to you was so people can see that I have feelings too, that I'm not an animal. This

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## Paddy Ashdown killed my guinea pig ...



COOPER UNWANTED HOUSE GUESTS

Guess who's coming to dinner? If you live in Newcastle-upon-Type forget seeing your mother-in-law, it's more likely to be a leader of a political party. Yesterday, Paddy Ashdown's aides let it be known that the Lib Dem leader was off on a fact-finding mission spending the night with a family that knows what it's like to live on benefits.

Now everyone has heard that this government's imperarive is to get as many people off benefits as possible. And presumably this is their latest secret weapon in welfare-towork: get off the dole or we're sending Paddy round to stay. (Certainly it's likely to have a greater effect than any Job Seekers' Allowance or childcare scheme.)

The organiser of the visit, a Liberal Democrat councillor, said Paddy's hosts wished to remain anonymous to avoid the pressure of the media glare: That means that we can only imagine what could possibly happen when a brave politician goes to seek "real views from real people" ...

It's 00:00 hours (or 5.35pm to you or me) and three masked men in camouflage gear and a dog knock down the front door of the council house belonging to George, Julie and their children Jack and Susan. Flat against the wall, the men swarm into the living room and tie the flabbergasted family to the dining room chairs. Then one pulls off his mask: "At ease, troops. Hi, I'm Paddy Ashdown. Great to meet some real people instead of hanging out with the Young Lib Dems. Let's discuss Labour's planned shake-up of the benefits system." His faithful mongrel, Luke, gives Jack a lick as Paddy gets out his Geordie translation

But it's a bad time to bookchoose. The kids seem to be concentrating on a soap opera called Neighbours (which Paddy notes doesn't seem to quite fit the party's stance on finding local solutions to local problems) and Julie is concerned about starting tea.

"Don't worry - let's forage!" shouts Paddy. "We had to in Borneo you know!" He returns a few minutes later with a small furry animal which he kills with his bare hands. "Tve eaten rats before - we had hard times in the Marines," he says. Young Susan starts to cry: "You've killed Bubbles the guinea pig, yon borrible, horrible man. Boohooohooo."

Paddy looks apologetic. "Oh damn, not again. Difficult to tell in the dark. I'm so sorry," he says. There is a ferocious knocking at the door. He springs up again. "A riot! We get an awful lot of those in Yeovil too you know. I once fought off a knife-wielding attacker with an old Special Boat Service trick." He opens the door suddenly and pounces on the intruder. Unfortunately, the little old lady he jumps on gives him a sturning left book and fells him. "Get your filthy hands off me, young man. I'm not that kind of girl," she squawks. "Julie, those local lads are caus-

ing trouble again. Three of £65m benefit cut that they had them dressed up playing silly buggers have uprooted my best apple tree and fence."

"I think that was Mr Ashdown, Ma'am," says Julie. "I think they were using the twigs as disguise. It's something politicians do." "Er yes," says another of the

camouflage men. "Sorry about

that. We didn't know what else

to use. Have a Young Lib Dem spliff in compensation." "Don't mind if I do," says the good lady, accidentally kicking Paddy quite viciously on the shin as she sits down. "Paddy Ashdown did you say? Isn't

your real name Paddy Pantsdown? Didn't I hear ..." "Great, the whole family is finally together," breaks in Paddy. "Now we can really discuss what you think of the welfare

"Well I think it's a good idea," ventures George. "I don't think lone parent benefit should be cut," adds

There is a stunned silence.

"Can we watch East-Enders?" chorus Jack and Susan.

"But do you think that Labour is backtracking on their election pledges? What do you think of the Tories opposing a gible for disability benefit. Most out of here."

proposed in government? What do you think of the Lib Dem proposals?" adds Paddy. "It's time for tea," says Julie with relief. Throughout the meal Pad-

dy cross-examines each member of the family for half an hour about their knowledge of the childcare disregard, pensioners' one-off winter payments and disability living allowance. Adding up the marks at the end, Susan and Jack tie, with Susan winning the tie break for knowing Harriet Harman's middle name. She's given a Lib Dem "Make a Difference" election poster as a prize. At 8.20pm Paddy pronounces it time for bed.

But we baven't seen the end of EastEnders yet," sulks Jack, still miffed over Harman. Paddy looks surprised. "But we're getting up at 6.15am to read through the papers. My overnight team will have provided a brief on the media. Then we're going jogging and a few physical jerks-mens sana in corpore sano."

"I've hurt my ankle," says

"Oh don't worry. It's something I've adapted from the All Work test to see if you're eli-

people who have to do it are much more ill than you are," replies Paddy cheerily.

Darkness descends on the house in Denton as Paddy sleeps peacefully curied up with his Marine Teddy Bear and a copy of the 1997 manifesto. So soundly that he does not hear the furtive footsteps outside his door and the quiet closing of the front door.

Outside the Job Centre George and his family shiver, waiting for dawn to break and the centre to open. Soon they are joined by two other families huddling together in horror.

"What are you doing here?" they all ask. The other two sport in derision at George's tale, "Paddy Ashdown? Gosh you're so lucky. We've been up since four singing hymns with Tony and Cherie. And we had to put up with Twenty Questions on the Millennium Dome."

"Pah that's nothing," said the others. "We've been doing transcendental meditation with William Hague all night. When Ffion started singing "Land of My Pathers" to drown out the chanting, we switched on the ghettoblaster. And when they threatened to call for Cecil Parkinson we left. Never again. Just give me a job and get them

## **GUS** stuns City by launching hostile £1.6bn bid for Argos

**Great Universal Stores** surprised the stock market yesterday with a £1.6bn hostile bid for Argos, the catalogue retailer. Argos rejected the bid as 'opportunistic' and must fight the takeover without its chief executive who is seriously ill. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

GUS turned hostile after failing to agree terms with the Argos management during two meetings in the past week. GUS pitched its cash offer at 570p but the Argos share price soared 42 per cent to 630p, indicating that the City regards it as only an opening shot. GUS shares closed 29p higher at 762p.

"At the right price it is an attractive deal but it would not look so good much over 630p," said Nick Bubb at SG Securities, Argos rejected the offer and advised its shareholders to reject the offer, Argos also announced that its chief executive, Mike Smith, is unable to undertake his full range of duties and is undergoing a course of medical treatment. The company bas decided to search for a new chief executive designate. "To describe it [the hid] as opportunistic in view of all the circumstances would he an understatement," it said.

Analysts were sceptical that a counter-bidder would emerge, Some suggested Kingfisher but it would run into regulatory difficulties as its Woolworths chain has a high market share in toys in which Argos is also strong.

It is GUS's first ever bostile ket share in its core markets of bid in its 80-year history and will be funded by around £1bn debt, the first time the company has owed a penny since the 1950s. Lord Wolfson, GUS chairman, first approached Argos nine months ago about a possible link in home shopping. It held bid talks with Sir Richard Lloyd, the Argos chairman, twice in the last week but they broke down on price. "Our impression was that they agreed there was a certain logic to the deal hut there was a big gap on price," Lord Wolfson said.

GUS said its offer represented a 40 per cent premium to the closing Argos price on 27 January and so was "full and fair".

Lord Wolfson said the logic of the deal was not to cut costs or clear out the Argos management, most of whom would be retained. He said the deal would give GUS a high street presence with 433 stores, which could be used to build a valuahle database on customer shopping hahits.

A deal would enable GUS to offer Argos products though its own catalogues, which include Kay's and Choice, and to include GUS ranges in the Argos product selection. GUS also said it would be able to help Argos build a bome shopping and home delivery operation at a fraction of the cost of the programme planned by Argos. It said it would be able to offer call centres, and a delivery infrastructure using its White Arrow van network, which handles 110 million parcels a year, GUS would also be able to offer credit to customers using its Experian finance operation.

Lord Wolfson said Argos had been facing considerable pressure as rivals grabbed martoys, electricals and jewellery. A good home shopping operation would also help alleviate Argos' problems with long queues at Christmas, be said.

He said he did not expect the deal to run into problems with the regulatory authorities as there were no market share The offer is a huge blow to

Argos, which was one of the

stock market's star performers in 1995 and early 1996 but has since fallen from grace. "It is inescapable that Argos has run out of steam," said Richard Hyman of Verdict Research. "But it is a good business and is not dead and buried." He said amnng of its problems were a mature market, price competition from rivals, and few exclusive products that could not be bought elsewhere. He said some consumers might have deserted the stores for shops with slightly better service and a superior store environment.

It has been seeking new routes to customers and planned to roll out a national home shopping operation next year.

The deal would mark a return to the high street for GUS, which in the 1960s had more than 2,000 stores. It represents a further step in the revitalisation of GUS under Lord Wolfson, who hecame chairman in autumn 1996, During his tenure the once sleepy group has already paid £1bn for Experian, an American credit scoring and database company. It is thought GUS might de-

merge the Burberry operation, which has 60 UK stores, at some stage. Lord Wolfson admitted yesterday a demerger might be possible in three to five years. Outlook, page 21

people cannot find work.

downplay the discredited

figures for the number of

benefit daimants in favour

of a measure in line with

international standards.

Diane Coyle, Economics

The Government's

statistics office is to

Cash call: GUS claims it could slash the cost of developing Argos' home shopping operation Photograph: Andrew Buurman



ARGOS: The company is 25 years old and the first 17 stores opened in 1973

### Increased £4bn offer may spark Energy bid battle

A bidding war for Energy Group, owner of Eastern Electricity, was in prospect last night after Pacifi-Corp launched an increased £4.06bn bid for the company.

The offer valued the group at 765p a share - 13 per cent above PacifiCorp's first offer last year. But yesterday shares in Energy Group soared 21p to 775.5p as analysts predicted rival predators would join the bidding, forcing the US utility to improve on its offer.

PacifiCorp made a £3.6bk takeover bid last June, but the offer lapsed after the deal was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Since the MMC cleared the link-up, two other potential bidders have emerged in the shape of Texas Utilities, another US power group, and Nomura, the Japanese investment bank.

Fred Buckman, PacifiCorp chief executive, admitted there was a possibility that the rival hidders would wade in with a higher offer, but said Texas did not have a history of "bidding beyond their means".

"I'm prepared for the fact that others might step in ... We've offered pretty good value and on terms that the others will find it hard to compete with. "

PacifiCorp also implied that the other suitors still in discussions with Energy Group could face MMC investigations. "Regulatory clearance was specific to PacifiCorp. I'm putting forward a hid which is not going to be referred," said Mr Buckman, adding that PacifiCorp had agreed to sell two Energy Group coal mines in Arizona to satisfy the US regulator, the Federal Trade Commission.

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Both Nomura and Texas face opposition from Labour MPs concerned about Eastern's financial security. Privately PacifiCorp believes Texas's nuclear power liabilities, along with Nomura's reputation for it likely both bids would be referred to the MMC.

Mr Buckman denied that PacifiCorp would resort to junk bonds to fund the deal. Around \$1.8bn (£1.1bn) of the new offer would be funded from PacifiCorp's cash reserves, more than in the previous hid, with the remaining \$4.8hn through debt. But it would still leave PacifiCorp with a \$15bn (£9.4hn) debt mountain.

Meanwhile, Energy Group vesterday revealed quarterly operating profits of £314m between October and December, up from £221m the year before. - Chris Godsman

Outlook, page 21

#### Treasury nets £100m Fresh jobless estimate will provide a truer picture as taxpayers miss by the Office for National Sta- market. But the cost of at least "This is a step in the right than what most economists Official unemployment tistics (ONS) to emphasise an £10m a year was prohibitive. direction. figures will in future give a The compromise will cost about But he added that even the truer picture of how many

The Government yesterday admitted that nearly a million taxpayers had failed to send in self-assessment tax returns on time for last Saturday's deadline, netting the Treasury up to £100m in fines. But ministers made a surprise concession to those who made innocent mistakes by offering a week's extension to some.

January deadline

Dawn Primarolo, the financial secretary to the Treasury, set a new deadline for taxpayers who make mistakes. Taxpayers will now have until the 11 Fehruary to correct and return the forms.

An estimated 400,000 taxpayers - just under 5 per cent - made oversights in filling in their tax returns and had them sent back. Many faced a £100 penalty for missing the deadline because of unwitting errors.

"In this first year of self assessment, I am prepared to be flexible. Where forms which were already returned to taxpayers are corrected and sent back by 11 February, they will be regarded as having met the deadline." Ms Primarolo said.

Final figures show that 810,000 taxpayers missed the deadline altogether, plus 70,000 partnerships and 20,000 trusts. Those who missed will be fined £100 each unless the tax liability is less than £100.

The taxpayers who missed the deadline will not only face a fine. They will also receive estimated hills from the Revenue - usually higher than their own estimates. A surcharge of 5 per cent will apply to tax outstanding by the end of February.

Accountants yesterday attacked the Treasury for being far ton harsh - given its own record of mistakes.

publish essential software. needed to process forms, before October. Accountants normally start work on tax returns at least nine months before deadline. Nigel Eastaway, of the Char-

tered Institute of Taxation. said: "The concession is welcome hut it doesn't go far enough. We think it's a hit harsh when a lot of people have been burning the midnight oil to get the forms done. It would have been appropriate as a gesture for the Revenue to have adopted a lighter touch."

Only those who have what the Revenue thinks is a "reasonable excuse" will be let off. Excuses such as "the tax return was too difficult" or "My accountant was slow" are not thought reasonable. Reasonable excuses include a flood in the Post Office, theft of tax records or the death of a close relative. - Andrew Verity

These included a failure to jobless total will appear to jump by some 500,000 to about 1.9 million as the result of a decision

Editor, reports. Starting in April, the headline

alternative measure of unemployment conforming to international standards, and downplay the current total. The decision - first reported

in The Independent last October but delayed by last-ditch resistance within Whitehall - does not go as far as some critics would like. The ONS is to base a monthly estimate of the number of people seeking jobs and available to work on the quarterly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Like the critics of the many "fiddles" which helped reduce the headline claimant count over the years, the ONS would have preferred to switch to a full monthly survey of the jobs £250,000 a year. Tim Holt, director of the ONS, said: "There has been a

lack of confidence in the labour market figures and this has affected public confidence in statistics at large." He added he expected the Government would soon he holding consultation on its com-

dent statistical service. The ONS will continue to publish the number of claimants, as this is readily available from benefit offices.

mitment to create an indepen-

John Philpott, director of the Employment Policy Institute, an independent think-tank, said:

new, internationally comparable measure left out some un-

employed people such as lone parents who might oot he actively looking for work hut whom the Government was keen to get into jobs. The two measures - the

claimant count and the existing quarterly LFS unemployment total - have tended to move in the same direction. Both have fallen rapidly in the past two vears and the gap is now as wide as it has ever been.

However, at least 10 changes to benefit rules since 1979 have all helped to reduce the num-

of unemployment. As a result, the headline

vould take as a "true

johless total became one of the most discredited and politi-. cised of all official statistics. It was criticised by the Royal Statistics Society, the House of Commons Employment Committee and even the former head of the Office for National Statistics, Bill Maclennan.

In future, the ONS will present a more detailed monthly picture of the jobs market, such as an analysis of full and parttime employment, temporary and permanent jobs, and reasons for "economic inactivity", such as heing in full-time

## City bears brunt of UBS cuts

#### Eurorail, the consortium which lost out in the hidding to build the Channel Tunnel Rail Link,

is set to announce it is interested in retendering for the project. The five partners in Eurorail - Kvaerner Construction, Balfour Beatty, HSBC Holdings,

NatWest and Seeboard, are expected to meet in the next two days and confirm their interest in submitting a fresh hid by the end of the week.

Meanwhile, Railtrack is due to decide formally whether to submit a rival bid to rescue the trouhled project at a board meeting a week tomorrow.

Eurorail lost the competition to build the 68-mile link in 1996 after it asked the Government for £500m more in subsidies than the winning bidder, London & Continental Railways.

**Eurorail poised to retender for Channel Tunnel rail link** 

LCR last week told the Government that it could not proceed with the project because revenues from the Eurostar service - a vital part of its financing plans - were £2.5bn below its original forecasts. The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, rejected its application for a further £1.2bn in subsidies Eurorail originally asked for £1.7bn in taxpayers' support.

However, its revenue forecasts for Eurostar were much more conservative than those of LCR. Eurorail planned to finance the project with deht in its early stages, only going to the stock market to raise equity finance much later in the

Industry observers say Eurorail is concerned that Railtrack may be allowed to walk in and take over the project by default, when European procurement rules dictate that there should be an open contest. Eurorail also has more experience of the CTRL than

construction phase.

any other group, having been involved in the project since 1988, when it was nriginally conceived as a joint venture.

The consortium contacted the Government last November, asking to be kept informed of developments, after LCR began running into financing difficulties. Railtrack confirmed that

one option being studied was to build the link in phases so that the high-speed line would initially end at Ebbsfleet in north Kent and then continue in Waterloo International This would cut £500m from costs. Michael Harrison

Staff at UBS, the Swiss bank, will bear the brunt of job cuts resulting from the merger with SBC, it was confirmed yesterday. The redundancies will be

"particularly extensive" at UBS offices in London because of the need to "keep the successful Warburg Dillon Read (owned by SBC] teams in place", according to Mathis Cahiallavetta, UBS's chief executive.

The two Swiss banks are expected to cut 3,000 London jobs, about half their combined City workforce. Details of redundancies will be announced with-

Speaking at an emergency general meeting of UBS sharebolders, who yesterday formally approved the SBC deal, Mr Cabiallavetta said: "Warburg Dillon Read, the highly regarded and successful investment bank, gives SBC a competitive edge in London's financial market place. It would be a mistake not to leverage this franchise for maximum advantage.... This naturally implies a considerable shedding of jobs at UBS." ....

SBC shareholders will today vote on the deal in a separate extraordinary general meeting.

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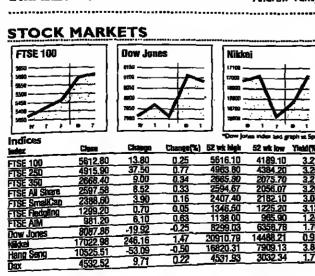
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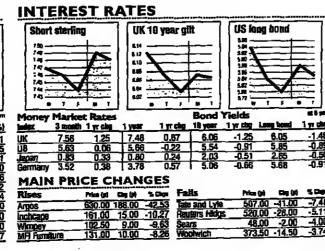
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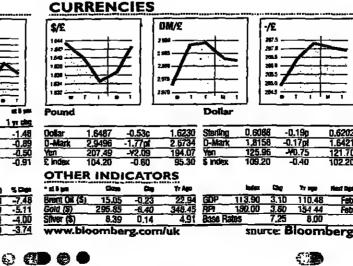
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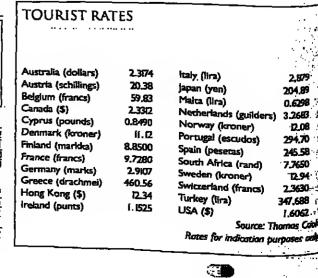
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# A touch of the old Wolfson in GUS's Argos bid

The spirit of Sir Isaac Wolfson seems to have been reborn in his nepbew David. judging by the whirlwind of activity to have swept Great Universal Stores since he took the reigns a year and a half ago. On top of a series of inspired acquisitions in data processing now comes an opportunistic £1.6bn hid for Argos.

GUS has struck just when Argos is at its most vulnerable. Its chief executive is incapacitated with a life-threatening disease and its share price has been hammered by a series of profit warnings. Its once successful formula of catalogue retailing has matured and Argos is under fierce competitive pressure in all three of its main product lines - to toys from Woolies, in jewellery from a revitalised

Signet, and in electrical goods from Dixons. Furthermore, its expansion into home shopping, though clearly the right longterm strategy, is going to take both time and money - and lots of them. Here, then in the present Lord Wolfson of Suoningdale is a rouch of his uncle Sir Isaac's legendary ruthlessness. Hit them when they are down and hit them hard.

But there is also some of the old pirate's business vision too. GUS already has the home shopping infrastructure Argos wants to build. All Lord Wolfson needs to do is to take the Argos brand and feed it through his own systems - no need for the expecsive duplication of warehousing, call centres and distribution that Argos is intent on building. Even Argos is hard pressed to disagree

with the business logic of what's proposed. The difficulty comes on price, GUS's

570p a share is 16.5 times forecast earniogs for this year. There are eight British retuilers tradiog do higher multiples than this, so even accepting that Argos is in something of a hind, that's oot much of a bid premium.

All the same, the stock market may have overreacted by driving up the price to 630p. to the absence of a rival bid from, say, Kinglisher ut one of the big Contioental mail order companies, it seems uolikely GUS would be prepared to go so high or that Argos could justify such a valuation on its own. Lord Wolfsoo doesn't need to buy Argos, and he's stuhborn enough to walk away from it.

### Is this merger good for Britain?

One irony for regulators in dealing with the proposed merger of Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham is that they've been here once before. Beecham made a hostile takeover bid for Glaxo in the early 1970s when both companies were minnows compared to what they are today. That deal was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which eventually ruled it to be against the public interest on the grounds that having two research and development facilities was better for jobs and scientific advancement than just one.

Supporters of the present wave of merger mania argue that the world has greatly changed since then. For a start, both companies are now global in their reach

the two companies.

consultation, provided the talks

were held in secret. The MSF

companies had often cited City

rules when withholding infor-

mation and argued the letter

therefore constituted a "water-

The MSF general secretary

has also written to Margaret

Beckett, President of the Board

shed" in employee relations.

and organisation, as is the market for pharmaceuticals. Furthermore, the cost of new drug discovery and development is now so vast that only the biggest can bope to do it successfully across of range of different products. In other words, the case for the defence goes, this merger would be positively good for Britain, even though it will mean job losses among scientists and one R&D facility instead of two, because it would create a national champion in a pretty much unassailable position compared to competitors in terms of drug discovery.

Arguments like this are much better accepted by regulators, both in London and Brussels, than they were. Even so, policymakers should be careful not to become too beholden to the process of globalisation. Before the merger of Glaxo and Wellcome, Britaio had no less than four pharmaceutical companies up there among the world leaders. After this latest merger, we will be down to just one behemoth, an also-ran in the shape of Zeneca (which Sir Richard Sykes would also acquire, given the chance), and a smattering of biotechs. The effect of this will be to concen-

trate a very large proportion of Britain's private sector R&D expenditure in the hands of just one company. Regardless of the supposed oced for scale in successful modern-day pharmaceuticals research, this cannot be an entirely healthy development. To believe otherwise requires the usual rules of innovation to be suspended, for the greatest chance of new product development normally lies in diversity and competition, not hegemony.

Who knows, perhaps pharmacenticals are different, but don't count on it. Pressure for consolidation, not just in pharmaceuticals but in other industries too, comes primarily from investors keen to see margins protected and enhanced in an ever more competitive world. Any management that resists this pressure or falls behind in the race to consolidate, will rapidly find

itself out the door. Plainly the process of consolidation is in the interests of shareholders, for it enables management to counter the persistent downward pressure on prices with growing scale and market clout. Whether it is in the public interest is another matter. Unfortunately, the flood may now be too strong for politicians and regulators to turn, even if they thought there was a case for doing so.

### PacifiCorp offer should do the trick

The boys from Portland, Oregon are back and this time they are more serious. But are they serious enough? Pacifi-Corp's 765p offer for Energy Group has been taken as a sighting shot rather than a knockout blow, which is why the market price remains comfortably above the revised offer terms and why Energy Group is keeping the door open to rival

As a means of flushing out Texas Utilities and Nomura, however, PacifiCorp's increased bid ought to do the trick. In the

event of a three-way auction, Energy Group could go for something north of 800p, valuing the business at nearly £4.3bn -a 43 per cent premium to its market value before PacifiCorp popped its head out of the Oregon woods eight months ago. Who said the Americans' appetite for British regional electricity companies was on the wane?

Actually it is rather hard to see how Energy Group's prospects have improved materially since PacifiCorp's first tilt at 695p was put on ice by Margaret Beckett and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. If anything. Peabody looks even more of a bombed-out US coal business while the regulatory climate for UK Recs is scarcely any less hostile. There is one thing that's changed, however, and that's the direction of long-term interest rates. When, like Pacifi-Corp, three quarters of the funding is in the form of deht, these things are important.

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At this stage in the game, PacifiCorp also has the priceless advantage of MMC clearance. Just because it is another US utility, Texas cannot assume a bid would escape scrutiny, given its attitude to labour relations, its management record running a ouclear business and the effect of a highly-geared bid on its balance sheet.

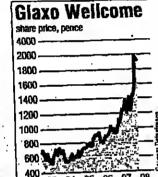
Guy Hands at Normura will also have to earn every penny of his reputed £40m salary if he is to construct a deal which stacks up financially for the Japanese. Unlike his previous sorties into pubs and train leasing, regulators would not allow him get away with mortgaging off Eastern's revenue stream.

## Union challenges drug giants as City voices concerns on merger

Large institutional shareholders in Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham yesterday raised concerns about the huge payouts and salaries that could be awarded to the directors of both companies if their blockbuster merger goes through. As Andrew Yates and Barrie Clement report, the biggest deal in corporate history could also face a legal threat from union officials aconcerned about mass

directors already stand to make up the companies' share prices a lot of money and we would be in the short term, some quesconcerned if they also forced tioned the long-term prospects

redundancies.



through a large rise in salaries following the deal."

The executive directors could net almost £35m between them and Glaxo directors could receive a huge pay rise as they earn significantly less than their SmithKline counterparts.

While most fund managers welcomed the merger and One fund manager said: "The recognised it would have buoy

for the combined group. One institutional share-

bolder said: "This looks more like a defensive move. Research and development costs are rising all the time. With both companies looking over the precipice this move will underpin earnings for the next few years ... but after that the outlook is negative."

Another fund manager said: "Margins could be whittled away by competition and any cost savings may have to reinvested in the husiness." These concerns prompted

several large institutions to sell ride European laws insisting on shares yesterday, Glazo's price down 56p to 1,927p, and SmithKline's price was down 14.5p to 830.5p. Meanwhile, MSF, the science

trade union, claimed workers' rights had been ignored and argued the companies were in hreach of European law on em-

ployee consultation. Roger Lyons, general secre-

tary of MSF, said management of Trade, expressing his concern over the potential loss of key scihad a "clear and demonstrable" entific expertise. He estimated obligation to talk to union officthat the companies accounted ials about the employment for around a fifth of the jobs in implications of the merger. Mr research and development in Lyoos estimated that up to the private sector io Britain. 10,000 jobs might be at risk because of the "overlap" between

Mr Lyons said his union did not oppose the merger, but "the case for it has oot been made". His protests prompted a On the issue of consultation Mr letter from the head of the City's Lyons said employees had been Panel on Takeovers and Mergtreated like "serfs" and that it ers in support of its contention. was time the rights enjoyed by In a letter to MSF, Alistair people as citizeos were ex-Defriez, director-general of the teoded to the workplace. panel, confirmed that voluntary codes on secrecy did not over-

A Glaxo spokesman said all figures for potential redundancies were "pure speculation". Detailed work had to be completed leader pointed out that quoted before it was finally decided to press abead with the merger. The spokesman said his com-

pany had a policy of "open and comprehensive" communications with employees and that information would be made available as soon as possible. Outlook, this page

## BSkyB issues writ in row over Premier League TV rights

The simmering disagreement between BSkyB and Cariton over the rights to show Premier League football turned into a slanging match yesterday as BSkyB served a writ on Carlton demanding that Michael Green's media group cough up its share of a £60m payment owed to BSkyB. Peter Thal Larsen reports.

Carlton refused to back down, arguing that it would not pay until it was sure that British Digital deasting (BDB), its multichannel joint venture with Granada, would be able to show live Premier League matches when it launches in the autumn.

A Carlton spokesman said: "We are entirely right not to pay BSkyB in full until they have secured Premier League rights for digital terrestrial television. The Premier League are ready, willing and able to negotiate but Sky has dragged its feet."

The argument stems from last year, when regulators forced BSkyB to pull out of the BDB consortium on the grounds that

its involvement was anticompetitive. In compensation, Carlton and Granada agreed to pay BSkyB £75m, while the satelline broadcaster said it would still supply its channels to BDB.

However, Granada and Carlton subsequently refused to pay all but £15m of the agreed sum until BSkyB got the go-ahead from the Premier League to extend its rights to live football to include BDB, Although BSkyB is understood to have offered about £3m a year for the rights, this was rejected. The Premier League is believed to want £15m a year. BSkyB has yet to make

another offer. avoiding an embarrassing maintained at 2.75p. conflict of interest for Gerry Robinson, who is chairman of both BSkyB and Granada. But Carlton is holding out.

Yesterday Mark Booth, BSkyB's chief executive, hit out at Carlton's stand. "Obviously it's not the best way to establish a relationship but if they want a fight they can have one," he said, adding: "I can't foresee a scenario that Carlton don't pay. I think they will come to their senses."

while BSkyB was on firm

ground legally, a refusal to supply BDB with live football could attract the attention of the regulators, "It would be a clear abuse of their monopoly

power," said one. His commeots came as BSkyB reported a 4 per cent drop in pre-tax profits to £128.6m in the six months to 31 December. The company ascribed the drop to slower growth in its subscriber base - the number of paying subscribers increased by 349,000 to 6.721m in the period - and the high cost of preparing for the launch of its 200 channel digital satellite service. Earnings per share Granada has since paid its dropped from 7.1p to 6.8p, share of the £60m, thereby while the interim dividend was

Meanwhile, Pace Micro Technology and Amstrad, two of the four companies which are supplying digital set-top box decoders for BSkyB, both confirmed that they would be ready to supply the decoders in time for the June launch.

Mr Booth confirmed that the digital service would he launched in June, but admitted that the "meaningful" launch would not take place until the run-up to Christmas. BSkyB Industry experts said that, . shares closed up 19p at 361p. Investment column, page 22

### Biggest test yet for a scientist who became a boardroom star

Masterminding the biggest merger ever, to produce the third biggest company in the world, would not only excite Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of drugs giant Glaxo Wellcome. It would assure his place in corporate history.

Sir Richard describes Glazzo's £9.4bn hostile takeover of Wellcome in March 1995 as the most thrilling period of his life. The £117bn merger of his group with SmithKline Beecham would put that in the shade.

Few would have written this script when he joined Glaxo as deputy chief executive of the research division in 1986. He was known merely as a scientist while the corporate path to the top appeared blocked by a host of charismatic figures.

But by March 1993 potential competitors such as Bernard Taylor and Ernie Mario had fallen by the wayside and Sir Richard was - to the surprise of City observers at the time - installed as deputy chairman and chief executive of Glazo pic.

Knighted in 1994, he became chairman of the combined Glaso Wellcome group in May last year. But he remains a down to earth family man, his Yorkshire accent linking him still to his birthplace, a village outside Huddersfield.

It is classic rags to riches tale. The youngest of three sons, his father was a carpenter and his mother worked a smallholding. He now has two children of his own and a home in Chalfoot St

Giles, Buckinghamshire. He is now a member of the

Royal Society, but was no runaway success at the local grammar school, leaving at 16 to work at the pathology laboratories of Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

Practical work fired him up. After studying at night school he went on to win a first class de-

His enthusiasm for matching scientific research with business came after his nine years at the Squibb Institute for Medical Research in the US. "I loved America, it's my kind of place. Lots of energy, drive and enthusiasm,"

executive of Glaxo, Sir Richard proved he could mix the gravitas of a scientist with the acumen of a businessman. Glaxo needed it. The City was worried that management was becoming complacent after discovering sudden success with Zantac, the anti-ulcer pill that became the world's best

cent of Glaxo's turnover and put a second division company into the giants' league. But the US patent ran out in 1997 and few in the Glazo hierarchy seemed aware of the pending problems.

gree in microbiology at London University before obtaining a doctorate in microbial biochemistry at Bristol.

be once said. As deputy chairman and chief

selling drug. Zantac had provided 43 per

Sir Richard grasped the nettle immediately. His comeback strategy was to launch the audacious hid for an undervalued Wellcome and set about cutting costs with a zeal that astonished some of his former associates.



Optimist: Analysts believe Sir Richard Sykes' confidence is well founded

Secondly, he pushed the Glazo Welcome research arm hard for new products and by the first half of 1997 had seen sales of those drugs launched since 1990 rise by 50 per cent.

Despite an expected 1997 profits slowdown, the Glazo share price rose as analysis remain convinced that Sir Richard's continuing optimism about the future is well founded. The proposed SmithKline deal has sent stocks racing

It all looked so effortless, with the potential deal triggered by Sir Richard picking up the phone to SmithKline's chief executive, Jan Leschly. The two have known each other since their days at Squibb Corporation but they have things in common outside business as One City figure said: "He is well

well. Mr Leschly is a former Davis Cup tennis player but the Glaxo boss is also a keep-fit fan who is pretty nifty with a racquet. James Culverwell, pharma-

ceutical analyst with Merrill Lynch, confirms that Sir Richard will greatly add to his reputation if the latest deal goes through: "The timing of both Wellcome and SmithKline mergers has been excellent." Robin Gilbert of Panmure

Gordon has little but praise for the Glaxo boss: "Scientists turned top industrialists are pretty rare. Sir Richard has been an outstanding success. He is a balanced individual who knows his Not everyone sings his praises.

regarded but he can be abrasive, impatient and opinionated."

The departure last year of Sean Lance, originally brought in as chairman-designate, was seen by some as an example that Sir Richard, like his predecessor Sir Paul Girolami, might not be the easiest person to work with.

Critics also point to the ulcer drug, Tritec, and the anaesthesia relief, Ultiva, as examples of the Glaxo chairman trumpeting products that failed to fly commercially. Such comments are unlikely

to worry Sir Richard. He once said: "I cannot run a company on the basis of what people think about me. I have to run it on the basis of what I believe is right for it in the long-term."

- Terry Macalister

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4 February 1998

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### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

### The guessing game at BSkyB

BSkyB may he a potent force in commercial television, admired for its professionalism and envied for its dominance of top films and sports events. In investment terms, however, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster is a tarnished jewel. Since peaking at close to £7 in the autumn of 1996, BSkyB shares have halved in value.

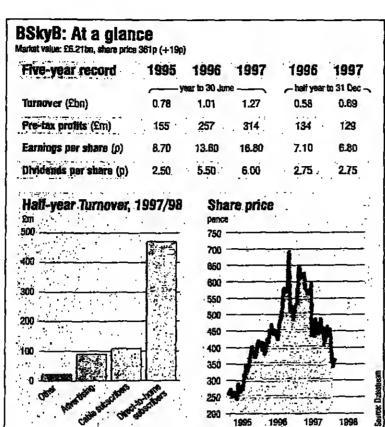
Mr Murdoch himself is partly to hlame. After all, he famously let it be known that the shares were overvalued just after BSkyB's bankers had refinanced the group's borrowings. The departure of chief executive Sam Chisholm and deputy David Chance last year did little to ease the market's worries.

Investors hoping for a speedy recovery are likely to be disappointed. BSkyB is in limbo: until investors get a clearer idea of how its new 200-channel digital satellite service goes down with the nation's couch potatoes, it's hard to predict what BSkyB's prospects are.

That could take some time. The service is being launched in June, but the hig marketing push will not take place until Christmas. Since subscribers will have to sign a year-long contract to get their decoders at an affordable price, it will be end of 1999 before anyone knows whether the viewers are prepared to keep on watching. In the meantime, shareholders can expect a humpy ride as the market attempts to guess at digital's prospects.

Broadly, there are three different BSkyB shares are worth tucking away. scenarios. The first is that the current slowdown in subscriber growth is because customers are waiting for digital television. Give them hundreds of new channels, and the market will take for Tate & Lyle off again. The second is that viewers want choice but don't want a satellite dish. The final interpretation is that British viewers have reached saturation point, and won't shell out any more, no matter how many channels they get.

In all hut the final case, BSkyB's future looks bright. Even if it does not sell many more satellite dishes, it has such a grip on programming that it will simply reach viewers through other platforms. For now, the risk regulators will crack down on BSkyB again at some point looks manageable.



will start to grow by about 15 per cent per year. Taking the low point in earn-ings puts BSkyB shares, up 19p to 361p yesterday, on a forward p/e ratio of 19. Investors shouldn't expect to make a quick profit. But as a long-term play,

## **Outlook sours**

Tate & Lyle's profits warning yesterday left a hitter taste in the mouth. The announcement that earnings would be flat for the year to September took the market completely by surprise and sent the shares down 41p to 507p.

To be fair, the group is hardly to blame for the outbreak of a sugar beet disease in Nehraska which wiped out its crops and will knock £12m off the bottom line this year.

However, news of cost overruns in Brokers expect earnings per share to its new £300m starch plant in northern

were also worrying noises about intense

competition in the European and US

sweeteners and starch markets.

It is not all bad news. There should an upturn this year at Staley, which makes corn syrup for soft drinks. The annual corn syrup prices are currently being negotiated and the signs are they could show a healthy rise this year. However, US profits could still be flat. with any improvement at Staley offset by problems elsewhere,

That said, investors should take a longer-term view. The group's move- last year but are now moderating, as ment into higher-margin modified starches is well founded. Extensive costcutting has meant Staley has been a to sell 4,000 houses by the end of the resilient performer, even during the current year and 4,500 next. hard times. And Tate & Lyle's heavy expenditure programme will begin to on the huoyant results. Analysis have pay off next year.

by £20m to £240m, putting the shares the year to May 1999, putting the shares on a prospective price-earnings ratio on a prospective p/e ratio of 10, then

strong run in the past few months and watch closely for any signs of a cyclical fall this year and next, after which they France is of more concern. There yesterday's price fall points to the fact downturn.

that its rating probably rose too quickly, too soon. After all, Tate & Lyle remains a cyclical business and the £311m profit it made in 1995 is already a distant memory. However, shareholders should hold on to reap benefits of the group's investment.

### Bryant looks a good building bet

House-huilding shares have been crumbling in last few months. But ac-cording to Andrew MacKenzie chief executive of Bryant, the upmarket house builder, there is no reason why the sector should continue to behave as if Armageddon is just around the corner.

On the face of it the group's 38 per cent rise in profits to £21.3m in the six months to November certainly adds weight to his argument, and the sector rose more than 3 per cent yesterday. Bryant's growth comes from a 10 per cent rise in average selling prices. which helped operating margins recover from 7.7 per cent to 11 per cent, much nearer to the industry average.

But Bryant is an perfect example of the industry's past follies. It is still paying the price for over-expanding a few years ago when it misread the market, which meant profits almost balved to £24.6m in 1996. Even now it has not finished restructuring the husiness and first-half completions fell 5 per cent

There are also growing fears that builders are at risk from rising labour costs. And Bryant would be more exposed than most if the Government introduces taxes on greenfield sites.

However, there are several reasons why Bryant looks a better bet than most in the sector. Its costs rose 5 per cent are land prices. And after gearing up its land bank, the group is still on target

Bryant's shares jumped 9p to 122p upped forecasts for the current year Analysts have downgraded profits from £49m to £50m, rising to £60m in just 8. The shares look a buy, but as with Tate & Lyle's shares have had a any house-builder, investors should

### PEOPLE & BUSINESS

JOHN WILLCOCK



The planned merger between accountancy heavyweights Coopers & Lybrand and Price Waterhouse has yet to settle on a name for the combined operation, I hear.

While the mega-merger winds its way past the European competition authorioes, wags at PW have been toying with the idea of suggesting a return to an earlier name for their firm - "Price Waterhouse & Co", with Coopers taken care of by the "Co" bit. A bit of wishful thinking there, I think.

Apparently the firm used to be called "Price, Waterhouse" but the accountants decided during the Second World War to scrap the comma in the middle in order to save ink, as their part of the war effort. How Hitler must have quailed.

Back in the here and now, PW has poached four people to heef up its media and entertainment team. Two join the firm from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell: James Riddlough as a telecoms privatisacion specialist and Olivier Castagn to work with internet service providers. Robert Davies is an IT specialist from Racal Network Services, while Hector Guenther joins the practice in New York, having worked at Chase Securities.

Hugh Corbett has taken time off from buying four new Tup pubs to help an old mate of his, Christopher Bromley, set up a French-style rotisserie in London's West End called

Mr Bromley hopes to open the first Café Coq in Shaftesbury Avenue in March, and says the concept is half-way between fast food and a restaurant. Diners will be able to pop in and select half a free-range French chicken ("real free-range jobs") from the spits at the front of the house and gobble them down with a range of spices and marinades.

Mr Corbett has taken a 30 per cent shareholding and, while the first 120-seater will be privately financed, if the idea catches on then and technologies.

Mr Bromley is keen to build a chain and float

the company.

Mr Bromley tells me the French definition of "free-range" is pretty strict. "The chickens will have to be certain breeds that can survive outside, are a minimum of 85 days old and have eaten a diet of at least 80 per cent cereals,"

Meanwhile, the chaps over at the Paris Real Ale Brewery are worried men. As owners of two Brit brew-pubs in the French capital, their husiest day of the year is when England play France at rugby.

Monday's announcement that the recent cold snap froze the pitch solid and threatened Saturday's game came like a straight-arm tackle to the solar plexus.

Two former Insead bods founded the company in 1993, Paul Chandler and Thor Gudmundsson, an Icelander. David Bruce of Firkin pubs fame is also on the board.

Mr Chandler explained why the state of the pitch at the new £270m Stade de France is so important: "We reckon to sell an extra 10,000 pints of beer from our two pubs in the week of the international, which means putting on 12 extra brews."

"Most supporters arrive in Paris on Thursday, play a friendly match on Friday and then continue on through Sunday. It's very, very messy," he says.

His Frog and Princess pub is in the Rue F Princesse, which locals have dubbed "Rue de la Sois" or "the street of thirst". The other. the Frog and Rosbif, is more central in Les,

Mr Chandler and co will be praying for a thaw before the weekend, or there could be quite a lot of spare beer to get through. Now, here's my Eurostar ticket....

World Telecom, a phone card company, has pinched a finance director from Global One, a joint venture between Deutsche Telekom." France Telecom and Sprint of the US.

Boudewijn Nijdam, a Dutchman, is moving<sup>3</sup> to the AIM-listed company from Global One, which sells telecoms to big multinationals.

Cerebrus, the British hiopharmaceutical. company which develops drugs to combat diseases of the nervous system, has hired two boffins, Dr Malcolm Sheardown and Dr Nigel

Dr Sheardown joins from Novo Nordisk. and, according to Cerebrus, was in 1990 "the first scientist to demonstrate that the AMPA ligand, NBQX, promotes ocuronal survival following cerebral ischaemia [stroke] in

Sounds a fun way to spend your day. The doctor will be director of molecular pharmacology at Cerebrus.

Dr Nigel Capps, the newly appointed commercial manager, comes from Celltech, where he was responsible for licensing of products

AMP bid nets £8m windfall

Staff at Henderson, the UK fund manager, stand to net an £8m share option windfall after the board agreed to a £380m ...

bid from AMP, the Australian investment group. Shares in Henderson, one of the few remaining independent UK fund managers, eased to close at 1,622,5p, 42.5p down on the day, reflecting City disappointment at the terms of the deal. Dugald

Eadie, Henderson's managing director, denied he had

undersold the company, saying the agreed price was "fair".

Business in the construction industry is expanding rapidly,

with companies reporting difficulty in finding suitable

workers and sufficient supplies of materials, according to a

new survey. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply

reported the tenth successive monthly increase in activity;

with its index registering 59.8 last month - a shade lower than

Optimism about business over the next 12 months was high,

Asian markets bounce back

The Malaysian stock market produced a spectacular gain yes-

terday following the sudden and impressive return of in-

ternational fund managers to East Asian markets. The key

Composite Index registered an extraordinary rise of 23 per

cent. Malaysia, along with the Thailand, Indonesia and South

Korea, had taken the hrunt of the Asian market sell-off, but

came back yesterday after a prolonged closure for the Chinese

New Year and Muslim Hari Raya festivals. Even the Hong

Kong market, which rose 14 per cent on Monday, only fell back 0.5 per cent. Other markets, such as Manila, Taipei and

£250m IT bill for Unilever

The Unilever group expects the total cost of adapting com-

puters to deal with the millennium bug to be £250m, said Nick

cial interest group. Unilever expects it will require 1,000 man-

White, head of Unilever's internal telecommunications spe-

Bangkok, also managed modest rises.

with 84 per cent expecting to be even busier than now.

December, but well above the 50 "boom-bust" dividing line.

A handful of redundancies is expected at Henderson.

Construction booms

for Henderson staff

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ly brewer Heary Mew, to form PC-TV system with Telefand and video the present company. Until now the group has fought fiercely for its independence, repelling a hostile ap-14 12 IS 1U 17 H4

proach in 1992 from Brierley Investments, the investment group set up New Zealand enrepreneur Ron Brierley. However, Gibbs Mew came inder the hid spotlight after it

> COMPANY RESULTS Turnover & Pre-tax & 280.2m (257.2m) 21.3m (15.4m) 5 3p (3.7p) 1.45p (1.45p) Gryant Graum (M 362.3m (305 8m) 125.6m (133.7m) 6.8p (7.1p) 2.75p (2.75p) Pitett First (F) 5.68m (3.71m) 1.33m (0.727m) 2.54p (4.36p) HerRage Bathrooms (I) 11.2m (9.48m) 2.45m (1.98m) 9.4p (7.4p) 2.8p (2.2p) 42.58m (39.78m) 2.83m (2.4m) 7.6p (6.3p) 2.2p (2.0p) Stores Gross (I) response Technology (F) 13.41m (23.95m) -3.5m (-4.9m) -10.3p (-16.6p)

### **Enterprise clinches** £48m agreed bid for Gibbs Mew

ery, which has run into financial Gibbs Mew, the West trouble, last summer. Several Country-based pub companies are believed to have operator, which would put a slide rule over the group, have celebrated its including Nomura, the Japancentenary this year, ese bank which has emerged as the higgest puh landlord in has been swallowed by Enterprise Inns. Britain. But Enterprise won out in the hidding race, moving its acquisitive rival. quickly to make an offer after Andrew Yates reports on the sewing up a deal to sell the latest deal in the rapid Gihbs Mew's drinks wholesaling husiness to Beer Seller, the consolidation of the pub private wholesaler. industry which shows no signs of slowing down.

There is a reprieve, however, for Gibbs Mew's famous Bishop's Tipple and Salisbury Best Bitter hrands which Enterprise Gibbs Mew's directors are in line has pledged to keep. for a payout of nearly £10m af-Enterprise has emerged as one of the most aggressive pub ter Enterprise launched a £48m. 345p a share, agreed hid for the operators in the country, buying local pub operator. Tom Hedderson, the groups chairman, John Hedderson, the managing director, and Roger Gibbs, the last family board member, will

John Labatt's British pub interests and Discovery Inns, the South-west puh group, since it floated on the stock market in 1996. The purchase of Gibbs all become instant millionaires. Mew takes its estate to 1,500 pubs The hid closes the chapter on yet be deal does not mark the end a long and distinguished histonf its acquisition spree. Ted Tupry in the pub industry for Gibbs pen, chief executive of Enterprise Mew. The Gibbs family have Inns, said yesterday: "This fits in perfectly with our existing portbeen brewing heer for at least 250 years, first in Surrey, then folio of pubs. I have not lost my appetite for more deals." Salisbury. Wiltshire. In 1898 Gibbs Mew has 310 pubs.

mainly around the south of England. Enterprise plans to restructure the group, add its 27 managed puls to its tenanted estate. The group should also raise around £20m from selling up to 30 of Gibbs Mew's worst-performing pubs, its brewery site at Salisbury and the wholesaling business. More than a balf of Gibbs

Mew's sharcholders have already accepted the offer.

#### years to solve the millennium problem. Unilever has some 100,000 PCs world-wide and Mr White said the company was studying how best to solve the problem in conjunction with other multinationals, suppliers and telecoms operators. Tate & Lyle profit warning

Tate & Lyle, the sweeteners and starch group, yesterday warned pre-tax profits for the year to September 1998 would be flat at around £240m. Sir Neil Shaw, Tate & Lyle's 69-year-old chairman, is also retiring after more than 30 years with the group. Chief executive Larry Pillard will take un the day-to-day control-The shares fell 41p to 507p. Investment column, this page

and the second s

### Airbus wins Iberia contract

Airbus Industrie, the European planemaker in which British Acrospace has a 20 per cent stake, snatched another victory from Boeing, winning a key order from Iberia for 50 A320 planes over its US arch-rival's new-generation 737s. The Spanish national carrier, which is upgrading its fleet as the state prepares to sell it, said it would place an order for as many. as 76 planes, including options, and valued the entire package at 400bn pesetas (£1.6hn) if options are exercised

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

they merged with fellow fami-

finally sold its Solisbury brew-

interim profits were higher,

sales in October and Novem-

ber have pulled back the year's

Pace Micro Technology, in-

volved in a £5m cost cutting ex-

ercise, at last won orders from

BSkyB for digital set-top

boxes; the shares gained 10p

to 40p, they have been 241.5p.

Amstrad, another beneficiary

of BSkvB set-top orders, im-

satellite broadcaster, on

slightly better than expected

plus stock, improved 3p to 95p,

a peak. Year's profits of £9.1m

against £7.3m are expected.

United Overseas, selling sur-

Innovative Technologies put

on 14.5p to 116p on a deal to

supply the German Beiersdorf

group with wound dressings.

James Noble, former finance

results, gained 19p to 361p.

performance.

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

Blue chips maintained their record breaking run, hitting a above their respective bid priors couraging Bryant figures. The high for the fifth consecutive session. The Footsie gain, howmore action. Energy gained

Bryant up 9p to 122p and ever, was the smallest in the cur- 21p to 77.5.5p against a 766p ofrent winning streak, 13.8 points to 5,612.8.

the main spur, with the £4bn PacifiCorp bid for Energy and a possible counter-bidder, put on US considerations, hard-Great Universal Stores' £1.6bn on 2.5p to 961p, recovering a cned 23p to 759p; Racal Elecstrike at struggling Argos creating excitement. The £382m Australian offer for Henderson, the fund manager, was another positive influence.

The outstanding feature in the latest takeover stampede is that cash, rather than highflying equity, is king. Overseas companies, which have played a big role in the bid spree, invariably offer cash and Pacifi-Corp and Australia's AMP are merely following the accepted pattern. But GUS and

as the stock market sensed fer, and Argos went to 630p.

to 1,622.5p. For once blue chips did not

Midcap and Smallcap indices making headway. The last pant form was in May last year when Labour swept to power.

Asia and sterling's strength. Enterprise bid. The pubs chain staged a comehack. Siebe led clinched control by lifting its the way with a 67p advance to stake to 58.3 per cent, buying 1,147p. TI Group, 25p to 462p. 25.7 per cent at 349p. and Lucas Varity, 5.5p to 214p.

sector climbed 3.3 per cent with George Wimpey 9p to 102.5p.

The latest lottery scandal up 188p, compared with the produced a mixed response Corporate action was again 570p GUS shot. GUS rose 29p from the Camelot owners. to 762p and Kingfisher, seen as Cadbury Schweppes, parily 10.5p fall. Henderson fell 42.5p tronic lost 5p to 260p and De La Rue eased 6p to 361.5p.

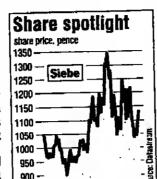
Whitbread was flat, off hog the limelight, with the 2.5p at 965p, as a 3.5 million parcel sought a home. Diageo added 16.5p to 568.5p on the time Footsie was in such ram- calmer Asian outlook and positive comment from Morgan Stanley. Gibbs frothed Engineers, depressed by 30.5p higher to 339p on the

Beales Hunter, an electrical

was not seeking talks.

William Morrison, never far from bid speculation, hardened 4p to 261p as a family shareholder sold 2 million shares at 260p, retaining 5.1 per cent.

Speculative activity continued to swirl through financials with Abbey National to 830.5p and Zeneca lost 88p hitting a 1.312p peak with a to 2.597p. 62p gain. Ripples of the GUS



Energy and Argos went session on the back of the en- "a number of approaches" but strike spread through retailers likely to produce disappointwith MFI 10p stronger at ing figures in April Although 131p. Elsewhere Enterprise Oil jumped 21p to 590.5p on

bid gossip. Glaxo Wellcome, the star of the merger mania, predictably fell hack on profit-taking, down 56p to 1,927p. Smith-Kline Beecham softened 14.5p

Tate & Lyle, where hid talk 563p peak, fell 41p to 507p on proved 3.5p to 32.5p. The a profits warning.

KS Biomedix was the latest biotech to enjoy a run, up 67p to 225.5p following positive results from the phase two trial on its rheumatoid arthritis treatment.

Range Cooker, which slipped quietly on to the market at 0.25p in December, held at 9p after reporting interim profits flared from TAKING STOCK

Watch Quality Software Products. Stockbroker Sutherlands has tifled its profits forecast to £2m and put a 400p target on the shares, aff 2.5p to 345p. There is also a market suspicion that bid action is near. The shares touched 708p two years ago.

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Corporate activity could develop at Future Integrated Telephony, unchanged at 65p. Amin Hemani, creator of the Westcoast computer group, has 3.2 per cent. Now a nominee company has acquired 4.27 per cent. It is said to be acting for parties which do not want Mr Hemani to become too powerful at FIT.

Simon held at 50p. Its reorganisation is complete and the immer engineering group. which has had a difficult time, is now concentrating on port and engineering services. Profits of around £12.5m are

	the mu	nuch smaller Enterprise . huying Gibbs Mew,	Builders too experienced a	Beales Hunter, an electrical group, rose 12p to 70.5p as it joined the takeover bandwag- on by declaring it had received	950	terim profits flared from £291,500 to £1.05m. Pex. the sock maker, is	James Notice to the director of British Biotech, is director of British Biotech, is likely for last year.
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Andy Caddick has, it seems, a left-hander had made the conbig Somerset bowler has to do is put it into practice in the secand Test which begins here in Tranidad tomorrow.

last time he faced him in the West Indies, in Antigua four

### England refuse to gamble

England A's opening unofficial "Test" stuttered to a disappointing draw here yesterday after both sides refused to take the initiative and push for victory oo the final day.

Allowed all but I1 overs of the day to set up a potentially exciting run-chase following Sri Lanka's early declaration, England instead opted for a cautious approach and hatted their opponents out of the

Starting their secood innings 17 runs ahead after the Sri Lanka A captain, Marvan Atapattu, called a halt to their tail-end defiance oo 368 for 9, the tourists were clearly as determined to avoid defeat as they were to press for victory and instead used the time for batting practice. The second

siderable matter of 375 runs to what I'm going to do," Caddick

However, Caddick believes Calificit dismissed Lara the tain, could be under greater pressure to succeed than usual, with the two back-to-back years ago. Unfortunately, by Tests taking place on his bome then the outstanding Trinidad ground, the Queen's Park Oval.

> four-day unofficial "Test" starts in Matara on Friday.

> Myles Hodgson, Kurunegala Final day of four; England A won loss ENGLAND A - First Innings 385 (M A Salham 87. N V Knight 85, B C Holloeke 67, D L Med-

> SRI LANKA A - First innings
> (Overnight: 3st for 8)
> N Vilesbreyen not out Felt: 1-14, 2-43, 3-26, 4-183, 5-254, 6-280, 7-296, 8-296, 8-354 Bourling: Hollosie 24-5-59-0; Hutchison 17-8-43-3; Ormand 19-2-67-2; Gles 39-12-73-0; Cosler 17-1-52-2; Ealham 15-4-50-2

> BNGLAND A - Second Innings
> 2 P James c Nasez b Samaraween
> N V Kright c 8 b Chandens
> N V Kright c 8 b Chandens
> N A Farthern not out
> A Flantern not out
> A Flanter (for 3, 57 overs)
> Total (for 3, 57 overs) Did not bet: B C Hofloeks, A F Ciles, †C M W Read, O A Cosker, J Ormand, P M Hutchbon.

MATCH DRAWN

"I've got a good idea of pass Sir Garfield Sobers' world said. "I'm going to come across him. If it works, I'll use it the Oext Test. If it doesn't, I'll have to think of something else.

"If we knock him over early, he'll be uoder pressure," Caddick added. "He's only human, he's not God. We might start a bit of shaking and shivering by putting a bit of pressure

England have inspected the Queeo's Park pitch - their captain, Mike Atherton, went down on all fours to get a better view of the surface, while the team manager, Bob Bennett, and the assistant coach, John Emburey, also had a close look.

The opinion was favourable. It has a covering of grass, but that is not unusual two days before a Test and the Queen's Park administrator, Bryan Davis, the former West Indies and Glamorgan batsman, is certain that it will last five days.

The Antiguan authorities are also confident that their ground in St John's will be fit and ready for the last Test of the series, in March. The outfield has been dug up, but the laying of turf imported from the United States is expected to be completed today.

- David Field, Port of Spain 227 for 7 when play ended, with



Mark Waugh on his way to a century which saved the day for Australia yesterday Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

### **Bold Waugh stands defiant**

chances and a controversial umpiring decision to score an unbeaten century vesterday as he helped Australia save the third Test in Adelaide for a 1-0 series win over South Africa.

Needing to bat through the final day to seal the series, Australia clawed their way to

Mark Waugh survived four Waugh on 115. In a tense final session of play, he was dropped four times and defiantly stood his ground despite hitting his stumps, prompting a vociferous

appeal by the South Africans. The appeal, however, was turned down by the third umpire, Steve Davis, provoking several minutes of dissent. Scoreboard, Digest, page 27

### Perry gives Leopards extra bite

Makeeba Perry staods out among this seasoo's Budweiser League personnel, not only because of his 6ft 10in. 16st-plus frame. Among the swarm of Americans from lower grade and more obscure colleges, a man with Tulane University on his CV has undoubted pedigree.

And Perry's credentials are now even more impressive, although his coach at Greater London Leopards, Billy Mims, remains incredulous that Manchester Giants released him at the end of last season.

Io the first leg of their Uniball League Trophy against Sheffield Sharks at Ponds Forge tonight, Perry has the added inceotive of confronting John Amaechi, the only Englishman to have started an NBA game.

Mims denies Perry oceds an extra push. "Mak plays as hard every game. We won the league last season despite three weaknesses. Tim Davis worked hard at centre but he didn't block shots, wasn't quick up the floor and we weren't a great rebounding outfit. By signing Mak we turned three weaknesses into three strengths,"

Perry is the league's second highest shot blocker averaging two per game, one place ahead of Amaechi, is the second highest rebounder and can make the length of the court in six strides. RUGBY LEAGUE

### Whelan becomes Super sponsor

Super League has been spared the embarrassment of starting its third season without a sponsor by a £1.5m deal with the sports retailers, JJB.

The two-year contract was unveiled yesterday, making Dave Whelan the major backer of the game's elite competition as well as of his local club,

Whelan, one of the country's wealthiest husinessmen, was Wigan's first sponsor in 1984 and his long association with Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, has clearly been a factor in brokering this deal

"Maurice is very good at putting things in your brain and letting them simmer for a while," said Whelan, the former Blackburn full-back who is chairman of Wigan Athletic as well as JJB.

"He asked me if I would be interested in sponsoring Super League and I said I would."

JJB replace Stones, who pulled out after last season, before the scheduled end of their £500,000 a year sponsor-

"Alcohol and tobacco have been geoerous sponsors of the game, but this marks a move into a new area," said Lindsay, who revealed that two other high-profile companies had also -Richard Taylor been interested.

There was one potentially

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"It is a personal view," he said. "I used to eojoy the game in winter and I think a lot of northern people had the same view. We may have been wrong, because attendances have gone up in summer and we have to

lan-financed project moved a step closer to fruition yesterday, with Wendell Sailor signing a contract to join Wigan next season. His arrival still depends on the outcome of his argument with the Brisbane Broncos over an opdon they claim to have on his services.

 Warringtoo have signed Danny Whittle, the former St

Dave Hadfield

### LEICESTER

1.20 GtGI BEACH (nap) 1.50 Ferryhill 2.20 Albert The Lion 2.50 Art Prince

HYPERION 3.20 Totally Yours 3.50 Man Of The Match 4.20 Little Gunner (nb)

INSPECTION: 7.30em

GOING: Chase course - Good; hundle course - Soft.

Right-hand, unbulsing course, with a straight mile. Run-in of 250yds.

Course is 2m Sc of cay off AL becester station 2m. ADMINSSION: 29 (DAPs CS). CAR PARK: Free. Silver Fing Car Park - £12 admits car and four occupants.

LEADING TRAINIERS: Mr Pipe 19 winners from 73 numbers gives a success ratio of 25%, 0 Nicholson 15 from 53 (25%). Ni Microbouries 10 from 37 (27%).

LEADING-JOCKETS: A P McCoy 14 was from 49 nides gives a success ratio of 286%, M A Fizegerald 11 from 52 (212%). Wilderston 11 from 72 (75.3%).

B FAVOURTIES: 93 wins in 259 was races (36.6%).

 FAVOURITES: 93 wins in 269 races (346%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Gold Of Arabia (220), Practous Island (320) (Visoraci).

Control of the 1.20 SILVER BELL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,577 Mr P Hank

= 12 declared -BETT81G: 3-1 Act in Time, 4-1 Gigi Beach, 9-2 Fortria Boole Dawn, 5-1 Tudor Fellow, 8-1 Pearl's Choice, 10-1 Deel Guay, 14-1 First Harvest, 25-1 others

ACT OF TIME, always in acrears when tailed off lest of four behind Northern Staright on his tending bow at Wordster in October, left that running way behind when beaten seven lengths by Organ Recitel at Humbingdon a fortnight ago, leading expreaching the 12th until nearing two but. Tom George's charge should progress again and un go one better. Tudor Feldow also found one too good last time in the shape of Steric at Sedge-fact. If the Physician is the set to be the star to the progression of the progression of the star of the star of the set to the set to the star of the set to the set. field on Boxing Day He was 15 lengths off the winner but he did have 28 lengths to spare held on Bouing Day He was its languas off the winner but he do have 20 languas to space over, the time Julian Wadels nine-year-old fell on his proceeding start but finished runner-out in his later races before that. Even so, a bigger threat may be duel point-to-point victor Gigl Beach, who has shaped well when fourth behind Lets Rumble at Plumpton on only his second start over regulation tences. Tony McCoy replaces the injured Timmy Murphy on the seven-year-old. Forthis Reside Dawn, after a tour-langth defeat by The Less Weltz on his chasing debut at Bengor, ted at the eighth until falling at the next at Taureon and could posse a threat provided his confidence has not been undermined; framewor's Herman's et all third to Freddle Muck (who came home by a distince) does not amount to much.

TOO IN THE SOURCE ACTION ACTION

— 12 declared —

5ETTING: 3-1 Geopal, 4-1 Young Spartacus, Potter Again, 6-1 Red Curete, 8-1 Ferryhill, 10-1 Filecol, 12-1 The Happy Momentit, 14-1 others FORM GUIDE

GANPATI was unimpressive when wirning at Fontwell but the trip was not far enough that the had school a style over course and distance before that, besting Jazz Track or engits. Young Spartness finished a neck behind Garpail when they were fifth and such to Road Raper at Humingdon and has since struck form at Stratford, Potter Again samed an Easier temper on her, expectance and justified favouritism at Wincanton, but any with a creditable third behind Neat Feet at the same track. The stop-up in distance should prove ideal. Burtoer winner Red Curate, a six-longh numer-up behind consciously at Touristanch at Tourist

2.20 BURTON LAZARS CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 2m Penalty Value £1,912 - zg caetarad -8ETTING: 3-1 Tip Your Weltress, 4-1 Katatoric, Chilli Boom, 5-1 Zesti, 3-1 Gold Of Arabia, 15-1 Auvasaksa, 14-1 Fanky, Atbert The Lion, 25-1 others

Anvasaksa, 14-1 Fanky, Albert The Lion, 25-1 others
FORM GUIDE
TOP YOUR WATTRESS, a sor-length sixth to Minster's Madem over course and distance,
har was this File would have finished closer except for blundering at the final flight. Chilli
Boom is the only one with recent winning form, having scored by five lengths in a claims
"Mocartion on Thursday A 7th penalty puts may stop harn and the tip may have more
to the first tip of the control of a big field behind African Sun at Ludlow siter a Fontwell
to the Top of the control of the control

2.50 MARSHALL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,000

- 7 declared -m weight: 70st. True handicep weights: Fleming Missele Est 12th, Young Baldric: 9st 11th. IG: 7-4 Docs Dillemms, 8-2 Jason's Boy, 3-1 Art Prince, 18-1 Jacob's Wile, Young Baldric

FORM GUIDE

DOCS DILEMBA, who won by a distance at Ascot in November 1995, suttered tendon trouble and was not seen again until New Year's Day when beaten a long way in Clare Men's race – Art Prince a 21-length third. Again a long way beck on ground that was too soft for him behind Catilly Heing at Wetherby, he scored garnely over three furlongs further here lest week. He is penaled 6th but can supplement the garsulassor's Boy has not been out of the first three in seven starts this season, whining two and was a dozen lengths off the runner-up when third to Capenwray at Windsor, Jesob's Wife, let clear at the the less when scoring by 12 lengths at Bengor in May, was pulled up at Huntingdon on his return and looks best waiched.

Selection: DOCS DILEMMA FORM GUIDE

CHARNWOOD NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) 

3.50 SILVER BELL MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £4,000 added 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £2,651 

A good chance this for MAN OF THE MATCH to open his account, Jenny Pitmanis charge, a faller on his fencing bow, took the minor position behind Cliver's Secret over course and distance next time. He was tailed off last of three finishers in Ideal Partner's race at Warwick but stayed on well when beaten seven lengths by Mester Chet at Warwick. Lancastrien Jat, a wiming point-to-porter, was tailed off on debut over regulation fances behind Wandering Light at Windsor in November but chased home forduff Express at Hereford the following month. Tim Forster's seven-year-old has a unstanted annacement Hereford the following month. Tim Forster's seven-year-old has a pretermed engage at Windsor but should go close 6 running here. Hopperdente was beaten a dis when second to Freddie Muck at Hereford. Selection: MAN OF THE MATCH

GOLDEN MILLER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £2,794 COSP GWE BEST (19) P Mickeros) J.J CNell 7 2 D.
USPPS CHARMER'S WELL (19) (D) (Baidings Lid) G Belding 10 11 11 ...

560-56 LITTLE GIBNER (14) (A W Bailey) M Shepperd 5 17 ...

129-14 WASSL STREET (14) (CD) (B Lestherdey) K Morgan 8 11 6

220-3 COURT CIRCULAR (53) (D) (P Lines) W Clay 9 71 1 ... -5 Decimed BETTING: 9-4 Court Circular, 7-2 Charmer's Well, 4-1 Little Gunner, Wessi Street, 9-2 Give Best 1997: Catedino 7 10 10 M Foster 8-1 (C Thomaco) 10 cm

BETTRIG: 9-4 Court Circular, 7-2 Charmer's Well, 4-1 Little Gunner, Wassi Street, 9-2 Give Best. 1997: Chiadino 7 10 10 M Foster 8-1 (C Thoman) 10 tam
FORM GRUDE

WASSL STREET looks the pick of a moderate bunch. Kevin Morgan's charge, who was trained by John Gosden in his Flat days, was successful at Parth in the spring of 1996, while he want in over course and distance and at Towcester less term. This seasons affort are far from impressive – pulled up behind Beachight Hyer here and 19-length fourth to Lucia Forts at Huntingdon after leading until after the titth flight – but he is 5to lower than last time and should be fitter now. Court Circular books the danger. Bill Cays runner was lest of time times the behind Royale Angela and Airist Solt II at Worcester on 1 December but he was only four lengths off the witner. Both Royale Angela and Airist Solt II went on to win their next two risces and Court Circular will be sharper for the outing – his first since June. Give Best, winner of a bumper at Ayr in 1995 and a maiden hurdle at the same track the following year, was tailed off when pulled up in Splandid Thyne race at Warwick 18 days ago but he will be straighter for the race and for the mount.

Selection: WASSL STREET

### windsor

1.40 Pomme Secret 2.10 Mr Chataway 2.40 Danzante 3.10 Rectory Garden 3.40 Sur-sum Corda 4.10 Tellicherry 4.40 Night Dance

INSPECTION: 7.30am GOING: Good. © Figure-of-eight course. Level, with sharp turns.

● Figure-of-eight course. Level, with sharp turns.

● Course is H of town on A308 near junction 6 of MA. Stations at Windsor Central learned turny London, Padelington) and Windsor Reversida (service from London, Waterboo) tm. ADMISSIONE Club £14; Tattersale £10; Silver Ring £4. CAR PARK Chio 52; remainder \$150 or \$1.

\$ LEADING TRAINERS: K Belley 15-57 (26.3%), Miss H
Kright To-59 (16.9%), N Henderson 9-46 (19.6%), T
Forster 6-21 (26.8%).

\*\*DEADING JOCKEYS: M. A Fitzgerald 13-63 (208%), M. Richards 9-81 (111%), A. P. McCoy 7-29 (341%), N. Williamson 6-60 (10%).

winamisson e-ou (1745). **B FAVOURTIES!** 90 wins in 256 races (35.2%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Burning Flame (140). Checks And Stripes (210), Danzande (240) (visored), Skram (440). 1.40 BURNHAM SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,375 added 2m 1006 POWME SECRET (50) (BP) M Pop 5 TI 10. J Lower B 18542- CROMABOO CROWN (296) P Bevan 7 TI 5.

9 A20 SHARK (13) K Morgan 5 11 3 A S Shabit 10 P-P-U WERGEND WORKER (13) T Keddy 7 11 3.5 Ryan (5) B 10 P-P-P- ABBEYDORAN (301) D Burshel 7 10 2 V Stabury 12 05 BONNY (13) D Winds 5 10 2 W Manaton 13 UO BURNING FLAME (21) R M Flower 5 10 2 14 OPOG-C LIZIUM (13) J Fox 6 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 OPOD-0 LIZUM (13) J Fox 8 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_\_ B Fenton
676 SANWOOD (9) J Pringer 5 10 12 \_\_\_\_\_ B Fenton
676 SANWOOD (9) J Pringer 5 10 12 \_\_\_\_ M Buschelor (7)
00.00 TA-RA-ABIT (35) R Pescock 5 10 12 \_\_\_\_ C Wabb (5)
RO FLAHWES RISTS (21) O Bunder4 10 7 \_\_\_\_ J Dunder4
5028 IMPALA (13) W G M Timer 4 10 7 \_\_\_\_ J Power (7)
P MATTIE (29) A Berrow 4 10 7 \_\_\_\_ J Culloty
00 BAMEO TANGO (29) 8 Cembudge 4 10 7 \_\_\_\_ T Eley
PO AUNT DAPPINE (46) Ms L Richards 4 10 2 M Fisherds
PU TYROLEAN DANGER (5) A Chamberlan 4 10 2 \_\_\_\_\_
2 Present

23 declared - 23 declared - BETTING: 1-2 Pommin Screet, 7-1 Sharit, 12-1 Suddon's Mirror, Bonny, 14-1 Cronadous Crown, Flahlwe's First, 16-1 Croagh Patrick, Impale, Physics, 33-1 others

2.10 OAKSIDE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 31/RPU FATHER PORTUNE (62) (D) Wrs P Townsley 10 11 8...

P252-U BAYLINE STAR (91) Miss H Knight 8 11 4..... Cullety
100-P CHECKS AND STRIPES (16) C Weedon 7 11 4......

8 2U-224 MR CHATAWAY (23) O Grissell 7 TI 4 B Fenton 8 QF AUTFRELD DOWN (14) C Monock 7 TI 4 P Henkey (3)

4 26U-48 EASY BREEZY (40) C Nam 8 11 4 J Mages (3) 5 0P4-U3 RYTERMAGIC (14) J Fox 8 11 4 S Fox 8 0/1-P2 LANCASTRIAN JET (50) (D) T Forsior 7 11 4 UNFP LOUGH LEIN SPIRIT (14) (D) Mos C.Johnsey 7 ft 4.

- 13 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Boyline Star, 3-1 Intermetale, 5-1 Lanconfront Jet, 8-1 Easty Breary, One Word, 12-1 Mr Chalcowy, 16-1 others

23-665 BOLD LEAP (18) PR Webber 8 11 5 A Thomson 03-60 SALAMAN (19) D O'Grien 8 11 1 Phantay (3) 10672 GAMAY (14) N Michel 8 11 0 R Dennecody 22-4P KINGSLAND TAVESHER (76) O Sharwood 7-10 13 

8 3-8400 (NTO THE WEB (14) Mrs M Jones 7 105 \_\_\_\_\_ M A Fizzymont/ 8 36404 (APPRESS AVENUE (14) Mrs V Word 8 10 4 N William - 103P2 SAAF (13) H Belon 7 10 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_ D Selber (5) 2.

4 42056 MISTY CLASS (80) C Books 8 10 7 \_\_\_\_\_ S MeNell
D1980 DAMZANTE (25) R Strongs 6 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ R Thornton V
DAMZANTE (25) R Strongs 6 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ O Bustons (5)
235F35 SPARICLING BUCK (13) M Audits 6 20 0 \_\_\_\_ R Opening
5220 SOUTH WIST EXPRESS (14) D Wints 6 10 0 \_\_\_\_\_ W Mineston

17 0-6004 ALTHREY PILOT (60) FI Peacock 7:00 LR Mars 16 4U/604 EZZYS BOY (6) S Meller 10:100 \_\_\_\_\_\_ C MA

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Mr Chataway **NB: Bingley Bank** (Windsor 3.40)

-- 22 decigned -heinhaum weight: 10st. Thus herideep weights: Decarate Set 13th,
Zabani Set 12th, Spenting Buck Set 11th, South West Express Set
10th, Althrey Pilot Set Sth, Ezzy's Boy, Palitiones, Lucio's Orchestre,
Computerant Lady Set Sib, Meter Generally Bet Seb.
BETTIMES 5-1 Wistey Wertor, 7-1 Garage, 8-1 Bold Leep, 16-1
Kingaland Tavernia, Koethery, Cypress Avenue, 12-1 Kingaland
Le, Soath, Misty Closs, South West Express, 14-1 others

3.10 BEECH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1-5P23 REDESINYOURSELF (19) J Official 9 12 0 .... B Powell 2-2211 RECTORY GARDEN (34) (CD) T Forsier 8 11 43-FTO SEOD RIOGA (11) (D) S Melter 9 118 ... C Webb (2) 2PPPS EDMIRIOURIG (71) (0) P Hobbe 2 11 7 .R Dismoodly -UZ224 ANDRE LAWL (20) (CD) K Balley 8 15 J. M Williamson (S2) 0 THE MIRIE CAPTAIN (34) 0 Sterwood 11 11 2

discordant note in the celebrations yesterday over Whelan's declared preference for winter rugby, whereas Super League is wedded to the summer.

stick with it." The Rugby Football League welcomed the deal by denying

rumours that they will now withdraw their financial support from Super League. The RFL is paying Super League's running costs, including Lindsay's salary.

"The arrangement is up for review in March in any event, but their is oo claw-back clause," said the RFL's acting chief executive, Neil Timnicliffe.

Meanwhile, another Whe-

Helens and Swinton forward on a 12-month cootract.

3.40 LIMES NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 4f 24-615 ADILOV (F13) J Bridger 6 Ti 8 \_\_\_\_\_M Butchelor (7) 124-0 BRLINGSGATE (84) Or D Chesney 8 Ti 2 \_\_\_\_\_N N Williamson

OS BINGLEY BANK (70) N Twiston-Dowes 8 11 2... C Minutes

OD BAGLE STOTHM (16) P Chemings 5 11 2... A Thornton

OD FOUNDAM VILLE (20) M Modgarch 5 11 2... B Fenton

5 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (9) G Morgoson 6 11 2...

1 Million 084222 HAILSTORM (14) O Nicholson 5 11 2 \_\_\_\_ R Thornton

25 RORRACKA (18) J GATIONS 5 11 2 PHION ALPHANACH (28) PHION MAZUEO (40) I Williams 5 11 2 E Humband (28) 2846F SURSHM CORDA (19) (37) T Forsior 7 11 2 J. Thurwood 0.5 WHIST LING RUPUS (74) N Twistor-Dawes 6 11 2 

CHIEF PREDATOR (F185) D Williams 4 105. P LAHAB NASHWAN (25) A Cures 4 105 \_\_\_\_ J Leech

BETTING: 7-4 Halletons, 3-1 Kuraka, 7-2 Sersons Cords, 10-1 Blog gley Benk, General Assembly, 18-1 Billingsgate, 20-1 others. 4.10 HOLYPORT CONDITIONALS H'CAP CHASE (E) £4,000 2m 5f

8 31-PSG GENNA'S WAGER (1) (D) M Campion 8 103. 10 -8253P NATIVE VENTURE (7) T Casey 10 10 1\_Sophie Milebel 11 UF30PP MINERS REST (9) (D) Miss K George 10 10 0

2 44321 PERMITVE STREAK (13) R Hodges 7 100 . T Describe
1 44044 THUHOOL (35) R Rowe 10 10 0 ... A Gently
14 PFFFF AT IT AGAIN (56) W McKeruie-Coles 9 100 . O Sopple
14 described ... A Gently
Minimum weight: 10st True handrop weights: Minera Rest 9st 17th,
Primitive Streak 9st 98t, Thuhoof 9st 09t, At 8 Again 8st 26t,
BETTING: 4-1 Hawkfield, 9-2 Persion Ellts, 8-1 Cell Home, 8-1
Primitive Streak, 7-1 High Learle, 10-1 Tellicherry, Native Vecture, 14-1 Offers

4.40 COPPER HORSE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 2m

12223 NOBILE TOM (18) (CD) (BF) P Eccles 6 11 3

5 16223 MCRIE I CM (18) (CD) (RP) PEDESS 6 11 3 Counte (5)

8 01560 MCRITADI (20) (D) Misa H Kright 5 10 12 .... I Culloty 7 415-53 NIGHT DANCE (F12) K Morgan 6 10 12 ... N Williamston 8 223622 SKTAM (18) R Dickin 5 10 18 .... MA FRZymatik 8 52292 NESSUN DORIO (F9) (CD) S Meltr 6 10 6 ... Webb (3) 

BETTING: 7-2 Area Solding. 6-1 Streen, 6-1 Informous, 7-1 Mobia Tom, 8-1 Flying Fiddler, Nesson Dorro, 12-1 Nine O Three, Silenza Crook, Alespa, 16-1 others

### WOLVERHAMPTON

HYPERION 1.30 Presentiment 2.00 Batsman 2.30 Mary Jane 3.00 Onefortheditch 3.30 House On Fire 4.00 Just Another Time 4.30 Risky Whisky 5.00 Bowcliffe

GOING: Standard. STALLS: 7f - cutside; rest - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.
Fibresand, left-hand, oval course.
Course is Not town on A449. Station fm. ADMISSION:
Cab £15; Tettersells £5 [OAP Diamond Club £4]; Restaurant £25,80 including entrance and meat. CAR PARIX free.
LEADING TRAINERS: R Hollisahead £1-536 (102%),
M. Johnston 54-648 [21,8%], J. Berry 43-300 (14,3%), P.
Hesiem 28-200 (105). M. JOHNSON 36-800 (1955). J. Denny 45-300 (1457). P. Hasiam 36-800 (1955). Denn McKaown 26-239 (105%). ● LEADING JOCKEYS: Dean McKaown 26-239 (105%). J. Cultur 25-394 (65%). O Wright 23-252 (61%). O Holland 21-130 (16.2%). ● FAVOURITIES: 380 wins in 1985 races (321%). BLINKERED FIRST TME: Chief's Spirit (200), Biondame (200). Sing For Me (830) (viscord). Perpetual Light (500) (viscord).

1.30 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV I) £4,000 7f 

SETTING: 5-2 Time Of Night, 3-1 Pow Wow, 5-1 Manifesto, 8-1 Closon, 8-1 Presentiment, 10-1 Patine, Great Chief, 25-7 others 2.00 CHIVE MAIDEN HANDICAP (CLASS E) (DIV II) £4,000 7f

256-50 BLUE LAMP (27) R Ingram 4 84 A McClione 4 00000 OVER THE MOCH (178) N Literation 4 8 71 S Whitmorth 2 0043-0 WHISPER LOW (TZ) R Holimshead 4.8 10 \_\_ 

BETTING: 7-4 Bateman, 2-1 Concer Arall, 9-2 Blue Lamp, 10-1 Chief's Spirg, 12-1 Blonding, 20-1 Whisper Low, 25-1 others

### 2.30 SAGE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 5f 1 0050-4 JUST LOUI (7) (CD) K Burlos 4 9 13 P Doe (7) 8 2 00-635 CHEMCAST (11) (D) (BP) J.L Byre 5 9 11 S Bookley (7) 12 2 3 4-2221 FEATHERSTONE LANE (7) (CD) Mag. L SECSUS 7 9 7

4 4406-3 SELK COTTAGE (5) (CD) R Bastiman 6 97 .... 0-004 BOFFY (4) (CD) & Blugh 5 8.5. R. Shusholme (7) 8.8.
0440-5 RENINTHOLISE (9) (CD) A Multipliered 7 9.5.
0880-0 SENSE OF PRIORITY (8) (C) (D) D Nicholis 9.95 8 14005- BROADWAY MELODY (180) (C) A Juris 482\_\_\_ 8 85000- STOCK HILL DANCER (121) K Butle 492

10 05 HOLDERNESS GIRL (29) Miss J Craze 5 9 0 = 12 distance = BETTING! 11-4 Mary Jana, 9-2 Sease Of Priority, 5-1 Feather-ature Lane, 11-2 Chemicast, 6-1 Broadway Melody, 12-1 others

3.00 THYME HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m 4f 10030- ALBAHA (JEF) (CD) J Barries 8 10 0 ... C Lovether (3) 2 0-215 CHBIA CASTLE (8) (CD) (BF) P Haston 8 100 ... 005-05 ARCTIC THUMBER (14) (D) 6 Paling 7 9 1 ... I Sprain 211-11 GREENSPAN (14) (CD) W Main 8 8 1. J Wildmon (5)

0102-4 ONEFORTHEDITCH (21) (C) (BP) J FareIngue 5 6 18 -7 declared BETTING: 11-4 Seen Hentet, 7-2 China Cuette, 8-2 Varob, 8-1
Crestorthedlich, 7-1 Greenspan, Albeba, 74-1 Arzile Thunder 3.30 MARJORAM SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) (DIV 1) £2,500 3YO 6f OS48 MESS DANGEROUS (14) R JUNE 87 LA Cultum 6 O4538 HOUSE ON FRE (5) J Bry 8 2 . C Lawrence (5) 3 8 O848 MESS DANGEROUS (14) (C) M Cultuf 2 . A Windows RYMIG TOUCH W G M Turner 87 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ T Spools 1

0460-0 SING FOR ME (8) R Hollanhead 8 7..... N Carriele 7 V 

-6 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Mass Dangerous, 3-1 House On Fire, 9-2 Tilburg, 9-1 Gienstal Laci, Sorrider, 12-1 Flying Touch, 16-1 others

### 4.00 OREGANO HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 6f 1 22820- HEAVENLY ABSTONE (182) P Evens 97

DUGE-1 VISTA ALEGRE (22) (D) P Malón 87 .... S Bandon 8 160- DARWELL'S FOLLY (83) (D) M Johnston 9.4 SII-23 JUST ANOTHER TIME (27) (D) (BF) J Bony 6 13. COICE- RUSSIAN ROMEO (79) (CD) B McMahon 6 12 ..

5 01-43 ROCKSWAIN (16) (C) P Hadeo B D ... L. Chemock 2

- 8 declared —
BETTING: 2-1 Vista Alagra, 5-2 Just Another Time, 6-1 Remises
Romeo, Heavenly Abelone, 7-1 Rockswein, 8-1 Darwel's Folly

-5 declared -BET (ING: 7-4 Orange Bush, 5-2 Riety Whisky, 9-2 Frolickier 5-1 Arcane Star, 14-1 Rull Moon, 16-1 Maggice, 20-1 officera

5.00 ROSEMARY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 1f 79yds

5-2321 RAMBO WALTZER (7) (CD) D Nichols 6 to 1 (Ges) 350-0 TOUGH LEADER (18) B Harbury 4 6 10 . R Pirench 6 5208 SUALTACH (7) (CD BIP) R Hollistead 589 . W Ryn 20660 THE WYANDOTTE DRN (13) (C) K Burke 498 ....

5000-3 PHILISTAR (5) (D BF) K Burke 583 ... Dane O'Neil 6 1063-0 PERPETUAL LIGHT (23) (CD) J.J. Quim 58 11.

-5 dectared -BETTING: 5-2 Bowcille, 9-2 Parabo Waltzer, 5-1 Sunitach, Three Arth Bridge, 8-1 Philipper, 16-1 Perpetual Light, 12-1 others

Today's meetings at Leicester and Windsor are in doubt due to frost. Both courses will be inspected at 7.30am.

Caerieon, one of Europe's top sires, has died at Coolmore Stud at the age of 18. The

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tion correct at time of going to prots 04 02.98.

sire of Generous suffered a heart attack.

#### RACING RESULTS LINGFIELD

.45: 1, FAILED TO HIT (Mr J Tyler-25-1 .2. Don't Drop Bombs 4-1; 3. Robellion 12-1 12 mm. 11-4 lay Roman Real .. (N Literaden), Total: £2400; £700, THE INDEPENDENT

RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTABLES RESULTS 171 ILINDSOR 982 172 HCESTER OLVERHAMPTON 973 983

0891 261 970

A A STATE STATE SALES SALES SALES

2160, 25.70. DF: 25540, CSF: 217783. Tho-881: 21279.1 Trio: 214880 2.15.1. THREADNEEDLE (D Harrison) 6est: £12/871 Trio: £14880.

2.18: 1. THREADNEEDLE (D Harrison) 64 fav; 2. Private Despetch 9-4; 3. Might City
9-4.9 ran. 5, ris. (Lid Hurtingdon). Tote: £280;
£120, £140, £140 DF: £230 CSF-£524 farc £170
2.45: 1. GREAT MELODY (M Rimmer)
20-30; 2. Some Might Say 11-10 fav; 3. Reggie Bruck 4-1, 6 ran. 2½, 2. (D Congrove).
Tote: £250; £110, £120 DF: £180 CSF-£731
3.15: 1. AFTER EIGHT (R Price) 9-4 jt fav;
2. Misse Skye 9-1; 3. Prenty Queen 3-1, 6
ran. 9-4 jt fav Lady Laphrosig (481), 5, 2½(M Saunders). Tote: £280; £160, £250 DF:
£1420 CSF: £215:
3.45: 1. ROBO MAGIC (W Pyen) 5-2; 2.
Mysticel £2-1; 3. Solssor Ridge 6-1; £2 ran.
4-1 fav Mutassawar (201), ½, ½, ( Mortague
1-60, \$100 CSF-£220; £260 DF: £1060
CSF-£2536 Transit £70610. Trio: £23421

| Hill Toke 1980; 1270, SAZI, SZBI UF; \$1980. CSF: 95536; Treast: \$70806; This: 223420. 4.15: 1. NORTH AFIDAR (A McCerthy). 4-1; 2. Zorro: 2-1; 3. Palleander 20-1, 11 mm. 3-1 tan Galapino. Nr. 9; (N Lithmoden). Toke: \$600; \$150, \$30, \$550. DF; \$3880. CSF: \$2324 Trieset: \$78451. Trie: \$43720 Inent CSF: CASA Tricest 2845t Tin: 543720 (part Won). NR: Paronomasis. Placapot: 27660. Quadpot: 57080. Place 6: 22723. Place 5: 55388. MUSSEL BURGH

MUSSELBURGH

1.30:1. HOH DORNESS (AP McCoy) 5-2
jr fav; 2. Roukt 12-1; 3. Censor 12-1. 15 ran.
5-2 jr fav Marniu (4th) 3. 3. (Mrs. J. Renneden).
Tota: 04.00; 21.50, 54.00, 52.70, 07: 55.470.
CSF; 235.32. Thio: 2364.00 (part won).
7-2; 2. Leap in The Durk 9-1; 3. Hoh Explorer 7-2, 12 ran. 3-1 fav George Dimryham (4th). 4. 4. (J. H. Johnson). Tota: 04.30; 51.70, 51.90, 51.30. 07: 533.30, GSF; 532.94.
Tricast; 511.79. Tric. 524.40. icast £1179 Trio: £2440. 2.30: 1. MASTER BAVARD (A Dobbin)

2.30: 1. MASTER BAVARD & COMP 6-1; 2. Hobkirk 3-1 jt fev; 3. Sillers Skelle 6-1; 1 few 12 ran. 6.7. (P Montain). Tota: 6720; 7180, £190, £270. DF: £1590. CSF: 52260. Tric: £1380. NF: Furry Ye Know. 3.00: 1. CHINA KING (P Carberty) 5-4 iav; 2. Blue Charm 7-2; 3. Puritan 4-1.6 ren. 2, 6. (J. Fiz/Gereid), Tote: £220; £140, £140, DF: £450, CSF: £608. 3.30: 1. TOPOTHENORTHRACING (A Dobbin) 5-1; 2. What Jim Wants 100-1; 3.

Acajou II 8-1 10 ran. 3-1 fev Forzair (8th). 1 2 (P Beaumont). Tota: 5530; 5200. 5000, 5250 DF: 52840 CSF: 534482 Tri-

Cast: £3,539,81, Trio: £876,80,

4.00: 1. DR BONES (Mr O McPhail) 11-10 in; 2. Adminitic 7-1; 3. Falcon's Flame 20-1 7 ran. 5, 7. (F Murphy). Total: £2:10; £1:50, £2:30. DF: £8:70. CSF: £8:24. 4.30: 1. ROCHEBURG (A Dobbin) 10-1: 2. 8R O Magic 5-1; 3. Sylcan Express 33-1 15 ram. 11-8 fav Carnden Moon (5th), 13, 5.

(F Murtagh). Tota: £1690; £470, £350, £450. DF: £11130. CSP: £5863. Trio: £23900.

Jackpot: £17,57730. Place5ot: £230,40 Guardpot: £19,80. Place & 25711. Place 5; \$20.74. Tony Whelan was banned for five days by the Lingfield stewards yesterday for irresponsible riding on Fairy Domino in the selling stakes

won by After Eight. Sparky Gayle, unbeaten in six starts over fences last season but disappointing at Wetherby last time, could reappear over hurdles as

part of his Cheltenham preparation.

Jeremy Guscott dismisses the extraordinary level of interest generated by his return to England colours as "weird", but mere mortals remain astonished by his powers of recovery. As Chris Hewett reports,

Guscott's appearance against France in Paris on Saturday marks the high point of his achievement.

It was Andy Robinson, the Bath coach and a lung-time playing colleague of Jeremy Guscott's, who hit the nail on the head. Asked to assess the risk involved in selecting the celebrated Prince of Ceotres for last weekend's Heineken Cup final on the strength of one match in six and a half months. Robbo responded: "Risk? What risk? There's no risk in selecting a player of Jerry's ability."

"OK," replied a persistent inquisitor, "How many players are blessed with such ability?" Robinson narrowed his eyes, stared at his questioner as though he was completely barking and turned away to talk to someone with a handle on reality. It was an understandable reaction; no ooe who has played either with or against Guscott these last dozen years or so would have considered an answer necessary.

Trillions of words have been penned on the subject of Guscott's unique contribution to British threequarter play since his England debut in 1989, a fair percentage of them in the wake of his two great Test-winning strikes for the Lions - the kick-and-gather try in Brisbane on his first tour nine years ago and the lastminute drop goal that beat the Springboks in Durban last June.

It is no exaggeration to suggest that Clive Woodward's degreatest day in my club's histoto as they have in common.

#### FIVE NATIONS COUNTDOWN

cision to run his favourite centre at the Stade de France on Saturday on the strength of approximately three bours of rugby constitutes a new highwater mark. Guscott's last Test appearance, against South Africa in Johannesburg in July, cost him a broken arm and when he subsequently picked up some serious damage to a disc in his lower back during rehabilitative training with Bath last September, the game appeared to be up.

Many of his closest club colleagues expected him to call it quits. He was 32, surgery was required and anyway, he had done it all umpteen times over. He had played for the Lions in every major rugby stronghold in the southern hemisphere, he had appeared in a World Cup final, he had won Grand Slams and Triple Crowns by the sackload and had pocketed mure domestic league and cup final medals than he knew what to do with.

wrong. "I'm a rugby player and I play because I love the game," Guscott said this week. "Why would I want to retire now? We've got a World Cup to think about next year and while there is a chance of being part of the England squad, I'm focusing on playing on at the best level I can."

All the same, it is difficult to think of another player anywhere in the world who would he thrown into what is certain to be an extreme physical and psychological trial in such unpropitious circumstances. Guscott loves playing in Paris, but a France-England Test is no one's idea of gardeo party.

"Look, I've played two full

ry. I'm enjoying my rugby and helping Bath beat Brive has put my confidence levels on a high.

"If the atmosphere in Bordeanx was anything to go by, the French are crazy for rugby at the moment. It will be spine-tingling over there. If you add to that the fact that England are playing some pretty expansive stuff at the moment, you could say I'm looking forward to this weekend.

But I must say I find a lot of the attention coming my way a bit on the weird side. I'm one player in an exciting squad focused on the hig games coming up and nothing else has any relevance. My only goal after the operation was to recover some health and fitness and play for Bath. To get picked for England now was not something I expected, but I'm chuffed to hits to be involved again."

It now seems certain that Guscott, who wins his 49th England cap in Paris, will realise one of the few tangible ambitions left to him: membership of the exclusive Red Rose 50 Club. Only seven players have bung in there long enough to gain admissioo Those colleagues were and all of them - Rory Underwood, Will Carling, Rob Andrew, Brian Moore, Peter Winterbottom, Wade Dooley and Jason Leonard - experienced Guscott's genius at first hand, Indeed, they all played against Australia in the 1991 World Cup final.

Guscott and Leonard are the only components of that side still plying their trade at the most rarified level, although Andrew and Underwood remain active in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. It will be no surprise to discover the "JJs" - Jerry and Jason, both educated at state comprehensives, both renowned as players' players in a quiet corner of some bar in games since coming back, the the Rue de la Madeleine on Satfirst of which I ended up losing, urday night. After all, they have the second of which was the almost as much to look forward



Touch of genius: Jeremy Guscott is welcomed back into the England fold by Jason Leonard during Monday's training session at Twickenham

### Vickery awaits the call to show some true Cornish grit

England's reputation for domination in the front row has been in decline, but Phil Vickery, called up to the England squad yesterday, is a rugged young player with the physical presence to put that right. Chris Hewett

Britain's farmers are not the only section of the workforce with a beef crisis on their hands - the same can be said of England's prop population, who once bestrode the world with their "best of breed" certificates but are now mocked as mere runts of the litter.

As recently as the 1995 World Cup, the New Zealand All Blacks were so petrified of the white-shirted muscle awaiting them in Cape Town that they based their entire game plan on avoiding forward contact. Nowadays, they happily take all the contact they can find. English scrummaging is in decline.

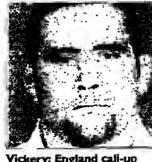
There is hope, however, and Phil Vickery, a 21-year-old K2 of a tight-head currently learning his hard, unforgiving but

known as Kingsholm. The Glou- one way or another. cester taithful are nercely proud of their international props—the Burtons, the Blakeways, the Preedys, the Sargents - and. if the tough-nut intelligentsia who frequeot the Kingsholm Shed have their way, Vickery will continue the grand tradition sooner rather than later.

Born io Barnstaple but raised oo a mixed farm in the Cornish village of Kilkhampton, near Bude, he knows all about tradition. The Cornish take oo lessons from anyone - not even the Cherry and Whites of Gloucester - in the serious business of propping and, although Vickery's formidable 6ft 3in, 20st frame allowed him to play some schoolboy rugby at both lock and No 8, he opted for life at the sharp end at 15.

"Cornwall is not the sort of place where things happen quickly, but if you can play rugby you find yourself going up the ladder at a rare old pace," he recalled. "Almost as soon as I started propping I found myself in the representative whirl - trials here, trials there, trials somewhere else - and, after switching clubs from Bude to Redruth, I was picked for a firsthugely influential trade at the team game at Leeds at 17,

'i made the England to Group and then England Colts. joining them for a tour of Canada. A few Gloucester boys were on the same trip, including Phil Greening, Trevor Woodman and Ed Pearce. I got oo partie-



Vickery: England call-up

ularly well with Phil and at the end of the 1995 season I popped up to Kingsholm to watch him play against Brian Moore in an important match with Harlequins. There was a great atmosphere that day and I loved every minute of it, so I thought I'd give it a go there."

Since then Vickery has been exposed to the stresses and strains of life among the grownups and survived to tell the tale.

front row academy otherwise which was quite an experience, the midweek All Blacks were phoned out of the county as particularly instructive - "I soon as they reach college age. both occasions and found him, well, pretty strong, really"-and he is now firmly in Woodward's

> "They're all good operators, those New Zealanders. They are always at you, always trying to put something on you and I think I learned more io that 160 minutes than in God knows how many domestic matches. The All Blacks are not fancy, quite the reverse. They are simple, direct and they do things properly. There is no letup and, if you do something wrong yourself, you are always punished for it.

> "I can't tell you how delighted I was to get a run io those two games. It meant someone in the set-up liked me and that was important, the sort of recognition that made the move from Cornwall, all the upheaval that comes from n change of scenery and change of lifestyle, worthwhile.

"In many ways, though, my heart is still in Cornwall; my family are there and I love Redruth as a club. They are proud of their rugby down there and it's heart-His two matches for different hreaking that so many talented stem stuff, the red rose pack may England second-strings against young players seem to be si- just find its feet once again.

Sadly, there just aren't end things happening, either academically or rugby-wise, to keep players within the borders."

For all his rapid development, Vickery still needs to apply the sandpaper to the odd rough edge. "He's good, no doubt about that," Gareth Chilcott, the former England and Lions prop who now heads up the marketing at Kingsholm, said. "But there's no point asking too much of him too early. He occds to settle down for the rest of this season, learn from his elders and betters and then really turn it on in September. That's when England should start pushing him."

If props mature later than most other forwards, Vickery has all the time in the world; especially as he possesses the particular kind of raw strength than comes from working on the land rather than working out in the gym. Two decades ago, Stack Stevens put Cornish frontrow play on the England map with some international performances that made Land's End look flimsy and fragile. If his successor is made of the same

### Paris pitch no better

The fate of Saturday's Francein the balance last night. Officials reported no improvement in pitch at the new Stade de Prance

just north of Paris. The turf was reported to be frozen to a depth of 10 centimetres - more than was admitted the previous day - despite a pitch cover installed on Monday night. Warm air blowers are to be employed today, but sta- ; dium officials were also praying for a change in the weather.

It became clear yesterday that the stadium had deliberately not covered or warmed the : said. "It's not like some of the pitch at the weekend, for fear i newer Olympic sports which that artificial protection or have a subjective judging eleforced heating would worsen its ment in them, like freestyle skifragile condition.

The daily sports newspaper L'Equipe said a more aggressive forgiven for a trace of hias. Afapproach would have heen, ter all, the game is believed to adopted if the stadium were not; have had its origins in his coundue to be the showpiece of the : try - although there is no cerfootball World Cup in June. : tainty about it. a Scottish curling L'Equipe said the stadium was : stone inscribed with the date left with the choice of risking a . 1511 stands as powerful cirfrozen pitch for the opening cumstantial evidence. match of the Five Nations' Championship, or providing a: "ploughed field" for the World Cup opener on 10 June.

### Scottish curlers can give Britain medal facelift

Winning Olympic medals is something that Britain has not been good at lately. Now four patriotic Scotsmen are threatening to end an infamous run ~ at the Winter Olympics to boot. Mike Rowbottom on an ambitious quartet.

Britain, as the British Olympic Association has been careful to point out in recent weeks, is not winter sports country. With the XVIII Winter

Olympics getting underway in Nagano on Saturday, the official line on British medal possibilities has been deliberately downbeat. Outraged domestic reaction at a lack of success in the summer Games of 1996 is still fresh in many administrative minds.

Against that background, the jaunty confidence of the British curling team - four Scotsmen led by Flight Lieutenant Dougie Dryburgh stands in startling contrast.

In December, they regarded the bronze medal they won at the European Championships, where they defeated the previous world champions, Sweden, in the third-place play-off, as a disappointment.

The narrowest of defeats in the semi-final by Germany, who went oo to win the gold, rankled with the Scottish team, which managed a measure of revenge

by beating the Ronnie Napier (left) and Germans at skip Dougle Dryburgh

Perth last month. They are not gung ho - but nor however, clearly perfectly adaptare they travelling all the way to ed for the acute observation he Japan with the hope of anything less than an Olympic title. "We are after the gold medal

in Nagano or it is failure for us," said Dryburgh's colleague, Peter Wilson, a pharmaccupical salesman whose brother, Philip. a farmer from Strangaer, is also in the team. Ronnie Napier, a a central point than your opconstruction engineer, makes up ponents'. Rather than a jack,

Dryhurgh himself assesses the situation as follows: Canathe frozen and troublesome; da favourites, and Scotland among five second favourites, the others being Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and Norway.

Curling was featured at the first winter Olympics of 1924 in Chamonix, although its official status then is in doubt. It has been a demonstration sport at the Games in 1932, '36, '64, '88 and '92. Why it has taken so long to arrive officially is a mystery to Dryhurgh.

"I can't understand it," he ing or synchronised swimming."

As a Scotsman, he could be

And many of the stones 40lb a time, including the bandles - will have been hewn - John Lichfield, Paris: from Scottish granite. Ailsa sweepers at the right times.

Craig has an important part to play in the Winter Olympics. Although the game and the stones may be Scottish, the four Scotsmen selected have to

remember that, for the duration

of Olympics at least, they are British. They are coming round "We are all very patriotic Scotsmen, and we find it strange to be representing Great Britain for the first time in our lives," Dryburgh said, "I probably find the position easiest to come to

terms with because as a mem-

ber of the Royal Air Force, my boss is the Queen." Dryburgh, who was 32 on Friday, comes from a sporting family. His 22-year-old youngest brother, James, is Scotland's first professional curier who has twice been world junior champion and is a reserve for the Olympic team. Another brother, Stewart, is also a top flight curier, and sister Carolyn, has been

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five-times Inter-Services skating champion. The sporting genes have been passed down by mother Jacquie, who was runner-up in the pairs at the World Professional Skating Championships, and father ck, who was Britain's leading ice bockey scorer for four years during the 1960's, revelling in the

soubriquet of "The Pimpernel". Dryburgh, who is due to be promoted to Squadron Leader on his return from Nagano, is a

training officer who directs the work of flight engineers, "I am not an active flyer because of had eyesight,"

requires as skip for his team, a role which requires him to call all the shots, as well as deliver-

ing the final, crucial shot bimself. The sport which has similarities to bowls, in that poiots are scored by the number of stones you can leave closer to ing has the "house"

cle of six feet radius. The term "curling" comes from the varieties of spin which f players impart to the stone via. the handle. While Dryburgh stands near the "house", directing each delivery, the two other members of the team take up their synthetic brooms and - as required - sweep the ice in front of the travelling stone to speed its progress.

"In golf they say, 'never up, never in'," Dryburgh points out. But it's the reverse in curling. If you deliver the stone too heavy, there's nothing you can do about it. The idea is to deliver it just a bit light, so you can speed it up by brushing in front of it.

But the golfing analogy holds true in one respect -Dryburgh has to read the ice like a green by noting the behaviour of the stone in transit.

"Sometimes the ice is warped and you can't see it. But the stones are so well balanced, they react to the smallest variations," he said.

He then uses his mental which will be used in Nagano - map of the landscape, backwards and forwards, to direct the tactics and employ the

Blackburn v Tottenhem1	33 Cambridge Utd v Doncaster
Coventry v Sheffield Wednesday1	34 Carditt v Lincoln City
Derby County v Aston Villa1	35 Chester v Manefield
S Lercester v LeedsX	36 Hartiepool v Darlington
Liverpool v Southampton 1	37 Hull City v Rochdale
Manchester Utd v Bolton1	38 Macclesfield v Scarborough
Newcastle v West Ham1	39 Notts County v Shrewsbury
Sunday: Arsensi v Chelsea. Monday: Crys-	Also playing (not on coupons): Plot
al Palace v Wimbledon.	v Exeter, Scunthorpe v Bernet, I
	Cotchester v Swensee, Leyton Orienterborough.
Nationwide Football League	
First Division	Bell's Scottish League
Brmingham v Middlesbrough2	Premier Division
10 Bradiord City v Chartion2	40 Aberdeen v Hibernian
11 Bury v Port Vale1	41 Dundes Utd v Motherwell
2 Hudderstield v Stockport	42 Kimarnock v St Johnstone
13 Norwich v Manchester City1	43 Rangers v Dunferine
4 Portemouth v Notim Forest2	Sunday: Hearts v Celtic.
IS OPR y Clewe	First Division
6 Reading v TranmereX	44 Airdrie v Hamilton
7 Sheffield Utd v Oxford Utd1	45 Falkirk v Morton
18 Stoke v lpswichX	46 Rauth v Partick
18 Stoke V Ipawich Bromwich1	47 St Mirren v Ayr
19 Swindon V West BronwillX	48 String Albion v Dundee
20 Wolves v Sundersaid	
Second Division	Second Division 49 Bechny East File
21 Bournemouth v Bristol City2	Also playing (not on coupons): inver
22 Bristol Rovers v Chesterfield1	v Cividebank; Livingston v Forfar, Quee
22 Bristol Hovers V Chester IICRU	South v Choic: Stranger v Sternousemu
3 Fulham v.Southend1	Division: Albion Rovers v East String:
4 Milwell v Gransby2	Queen's Park; Cowdenbeeth v Arbroati barton v Ross County, Montrose v Be
5 Oldham v Blackpool1	
26 Plymouth v CarlaisX	Four draws: Lalcester v Liteds, Wolver derland Preston v Burrier, Klimamock v :
The state of Control of the state of the sta	Sione.
A LUCION V MORTHWITEDION	Five aways: Middlesbrough, Nottingto
- see-down to I self-III	est, Bristol City, Torquey, East File.
30 Wycombe v Brentford1	The homes: Blackburt, Liverpool, Man
H York Y Walself2	United Norwich, Bristol Rovers, Fulher
MAX A SHIDKN TO SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP SHIP	

### WEEKEND FIXTURES AND POOLS FORECAST Armstrong takes over Scotland captaincy

Gary Armstrong, the Newcas- after being furced to withdraw be joined in the Irish side by captaincy from Rob Wainwright for Scotland's opening Five Nations' Championship match against Ireland in Duhlin on

side showing seven changes three positional - from the une defeated in Italy last month. Recalled to the starting XV are the Wasps winger Kenny Lo-

gan, who was left out of the squad for the trip to Treviso, and his club colleague Damian Cronin in the second row. Cronin reptaces the inexperienced Scott Murray, while Logan starts un the left flank with Craig Joiner switching to

Stanger, who is demoted to the replacements' bench. Newcastle prop George first start at international level

the right in place of Tony

from the original team to face flanker David Corkery and cen-Italy, coming in for David Hilton at loose-head who is also dropped to the bench.

The other main positional switch sees Craig Chalmers re-Wainwright does retain his stored to the vital stand-off place at blind-side flanker in a role in a straight swap for Gregur Townsend, who reverts to the centre role he has filled for most of the season with his club, Northampton.

The selectors have also gone for a more heavyweight No 8 in Newcastle's Peter Walton. He gets the nod over Adam Roxburgh, who will be joined on the bench by London Scottish fullhack Derrick Lee after a lung absence from the internation-

Tight-head prop Paul Wallace has received the green light to play for Ireland, Wallace had been struggling with a neck Graham also makes a belated injury sustained playing for Saracens last weekend. He will

tre Kevin Maggs.

Championship, Bubikn, Saturday):
Shepherd (Meirose and Catedona);
Johner (Laicester), A Talk (Newcastie),
Townsend (Northempton), K Log
(Wasps); C Chaimers (Melrose and So
tish Borders), G Amestrong (Newcas
and Division of Allegantin C Bullet
capt): [] Graham (Newcastle), G Bullo
(West of Scotland and Glasgow), M Str art (Northernoton), Il Cronin (Waspa), Il W
But (Actual Actual Transmit (Asses) IT a
(Newcastle), R Wainwright (Ounder HS
and Caledonia), P Watton (Newcastle)
Holmes (London Scottish). Replecemen
T Stanger (Hewick and Scottish Borde
🛘 Lee (London Scottish). A Micol (Seth)
Rocburch (Kelso and Scottish Borders)
Grimes (Vistoonians and Caledonia),
Hilton (Beth), II Scott (Dunder HSFP a
Caledonia).
Referent A Watson (SA) Touch ludges

es (Well and E Montson (Engl. Bristul have signed the Neath winger Chris Higgs on a free transfer. The 29-year-old policeman was not under con-

tract at the Welsh club and he will make his debut in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup game at Moscley tnuight. Higgs was set to move to the Memorial Ground in December, but was persuaded by the Welsh club to stay at The Gnoll.

## 器 SNOW REPORTS

Ski Hotline	AROUND	THE RESORTS					
Lasest snow and weather reports from 200+ resorts in Europe and	Resort	Comment	Area	Last	Lwr	Upp	Foreg
North America.	AUSTRIA	Best stong on highest pistes	SOOK	261	60	ea	Cloud build
Voice reports 0891 333 HO + code	BULGARIA	Parked powder snow high up	100%	3/1	IQ.	90	More sunsh
Fax reports 0897 500 086 + code	CANADA	Paded and groomed conditions		12	40	75	Snow sh
For a full list of all ski codes by	FRANCE	Good shing on dry packed snow	90%	2.1	140	lb0	Bri
voice or fax dial 0990 100 843	Mortgenevns	All sectors looking good	1 <b>00</b> 7%	20.1	50	190	Bright, sur
Ski Snapshot	NORWAY	All four sectors fully open	107%	91	31	120	Dry, dear, o
At a glance to snow conditions at	ROMANIA	-Firm packed snow	80%	81	70	70	Cear sur
over 200 resorts world-wide 0897 500 601	Pours Brazzo	Firm packed snow	160%	3.0	\$0	70	Clos
	\$WEDEN	from packed graw youer	75/h	26.1	45	90	Strow shy
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NEWSTEL HIZTRATION . L	UNITED STATES		100%	22.1	30	.125	Sur
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## A tasteful study from bacon butties to venison burgers on the Orient Excess

For some, the prospect of whether or not they should eat at a match weighs heavily on the mand, if not the stomach. Catherine Riley reports on a new survey into the fare on offer in and around feotball grounds.

Everyone has their own favourite horror story of matchday food; there's the burger that came with a fingernail, another one with a tooth already in it and

served by the vendor who urinated against a wall and then went back to serving food without washing his hands.

Now, with a copy of Colman's Football Food Guide tucked into their back pocket, fans can follow their team around the country secure in the knowledge that they can find somewhere to eat without needing to take along a stomach pump.

As jobs go, a food taster for Egon Ronay or Michelin has a certain appeal, but sampling the food on offer around the 92 League clubs, as well as Wernbley, has to be s labour of love. the kebab containing a maggot. The testers came back with

TASTY: THE TOP TEN

Cambridge United 2 Huddersfield Town

3 Rochdale

5 Charlton Athletic 6 Hartlepool United 7 Rotherham United 8 Middlesbrough 9 Stoke City

10 Preston North End

only 15 stomach upsets and 27 hurnt fingers between them, having consumed 323 pies, 291 burgers and one balti pie at Wal-

Surprisingly, the finest food

in the Premiership, but in the Third Division. Cambridge United took the honours for their all-round catering - the highlight being the bacon butty. The secret, apparently, is in using two slices of best back bacon, grilled for optimum noseappeal.

For all its money, the Premiership is poorly represented, with just four clubs in the top 20. Manchester United heads the list in 12th, with a special commendation for the van behind the Old Stretford End which sells venison burgers.

England's plans to host the in the League is not to be found World Cup in 2006 may have YUK: THE WORST TEN

been damaged by the placing of the national stadium in 89th. Leyton Orient Last May, Tony Banks, minister for sport, said: "The food at 2 Swansea City 3 Bristol City Wembley is absolutely disgraceful. I'm surprised more people don't die of food poi-5 Oxford Unitled

27/SPORTLODITION

soning after eating there."

Rebuilding s stadium which

charges over £6 for a "tasteless"

burger, chips and Coca-Cola is

Life is not much better for

Welsh supporters. Cardiff City.

Wrexham and Swansea City are

all in the bottom 10. The Vetch

Field was noted for its sausage

roll, in which the sole purpose

the only option.

7 Chester City 8 Tottenham Hotspur 9 Peterborough United 10 Cardiff City

Vegetarians are less well served, crisps being the safest bet -assuming you have ever heard of the manufacturer and they are still within their sell-by date. of the skin of the sausage was "to

prevent the contents from flow-

lukewarm, hot drinks come on the warmer side of scalding. Most are helpfully served in plastic cups that melt in the hand around three seconds after leaving the counter, forcing the purchaser to suffer third-degree burns or drop the contents over their legs. At some grounds, this is the warmest your feet will

piled the type of orange drink which was only ever found in cinemas 20 years ago. In the taste test, hot chocolate is the best approximation

ever get. On the cold - or tepid

front, Arsenal have stock-

Whereas the pies and burg- you are likely to find, assuming ers were generally found to be you can stir the inch of sludge at the bottom of the cup into life. Ditto the beef-flavour drink, Let us hope we never become s nation of litigators - McDonald's "scalding coffee" case may set the benchmark for a million damages claims.

Sadly, "Who ate all the pies" is something that may never be heard at Brisbane Road. Leyton Orient get the dubious honour of coming bottom of the food league. The editor of their fanzine All Aboard the Wagon Train sums it up as "Tve had better meat from live cows with BSE." Take sandwiches.

OOTBALL

## **Scholes out** of Cup tie after second suspension

cond suspension of the season sllowing his eighth booking gainst Leicester on Saturday. le will miss Manchester Unitd's FA Cup fifth-round tie larnsley on 15 February and the remiership match at Aston filla three days later.

One player United missed ert on, Marcelo Salas, has igned a pre-contract agreegent for £12m with Lazio. The talian club announced yesterday hat they intend to give the 23ear-old Chilean international an ight-year contract - if they can apass Italian league rules of a naximum five-year deal.

Salas, who scored 11 goals in malifying campaign, is expected to play for his country in their Numbley next week.

The former Italy and Milan the relegation zone. :oach Arrigo Sacchi has turned lown an offer to coach the spanish champions Real Madid next season. Madrid asked epola, for w

aul Scholes has been given his Heynckes, who inherited the job from the current Milan coach, Fabio Capello. But Sacchi rejected the offer, in part because he wants to work either in France or England, but also begainst either Tottenham or cause he did not want to take over a squad built by Capello.

Crystal Palace's bid to sign the young Carlisle striker Matt Jansen took on greater urgency yesterday when Neil Shipperley was ruled out for eight weeks following s hernia operation. The former Chelsea striker had been in fine form at the end of last year, scoring six goals in eight games until he was sidelined by a groin problem.

Dario Gradi has won the

Nationwide League First Divi-Thile's successful World Cup sion Manager of the Month award for January. The Crewe manager led his side to four conriendly against England at securive league wins last month, which saw the club pull clear of

One of Gradi's players who may be on the way out of Gres-

### Ronaldo staying put in Italy

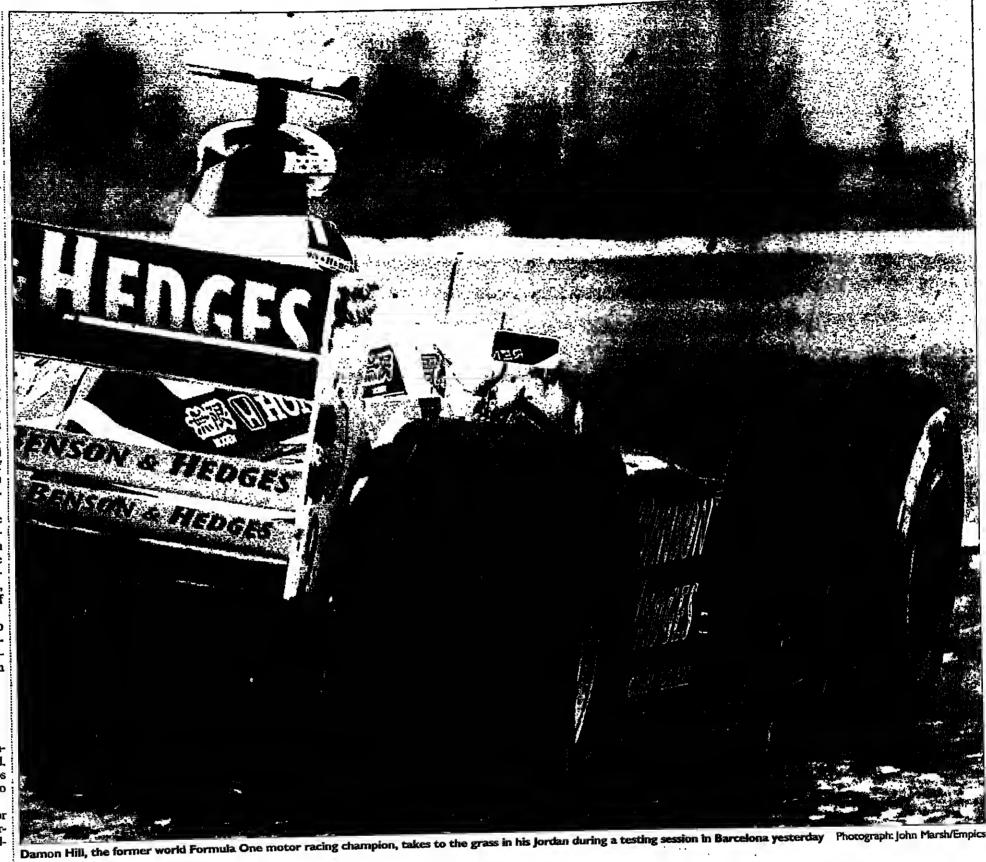
Ronaldo, the Internazionale who quashed rumours of an imstriker, has rejected a suggestion pending move to Real Madrid, ny his fellow Brazilian, Roberto Carlos, that he would return plays. "It seems that Roberto to Spam next season in an interview published yesterday by the sports newspaper Marca.

ty Road is the striker Dele Adsacchi to take over from Jupp have made a £900,000 bid.

of leaving Italy," said Ronaldo, vertisement in Tenerife.

the club where Roberto Carlos

knows more than 1 do." Ronaldo, who played for Barcelona last season, is cur-Right now I'm not thinking rently filming s television sd-



218 (P H Barnard 101; Mushtaq Ahmed 5-53) and 109 (Mushtaq Ahmed 5-15), Pakistan won by 307 runs.

TOUR MATCH (Impo, MZ, one day): New Zealand Academy '83 (483 overs); Zim-belowe '86 for 2 (365 overs). Zimbalawe won by eight wickels.

by eight wanter. SHEFFIELD SHIELD (Melbouros, first day of four): Victorie 284 for 4 (L Harper 118, II M Jones 100no) v Western Austrelia.

Football

Football
Howard Wildinson's England Under-18
side take on Israel in a friendity international at Northwich Victorie's Orill
Field ground on 12 February. They then
meet France in a qualifying play-off
for the European Chempioreship finals
in Cyprus in July: the first leg is at
Edgeley Park, Stockport, on 26 March,
with the return on 23 April.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION Flist Division: Anserie! 1 Queen's Park Rengins 1.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Findure
changes Sum 15 Febr. East File v Queen
of the South from 14 Febr. Wed 25 Febr.
Morton v Hamilton (from 14 Febr.).
MONDAY'S LATE RESULT'S: Bell's Scot-

of the South prom 14 Feb.). Wes all hack Morton v Hamilton (from 14 Feb.).
MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Bell's Scottish League Premier Division: Cette 3 (Mieghorst 21, Larsson 35, Jackson 82) Aberdeen 1 (Rowson 8, Tannerits Scottish Cup fisher count replay. Abon Rowers won 6-5 on panelines after even since and are sevy to Hearts). Spenish League: Real Machid 1 (Suter pen 68) Velencia 2 (Mandiets pen 4, lie 17) Pontra League First Division: Leicaster 4 Wolves 1; Mandrester City O Otchem 4, Second Division: Bradford City 4 Wresham 1, Avon Insurance Combination First Division: According to the conduction of the conduction of

### CPORTING DIGEST

'ni' ING

### Tactical battle in Whitbread

Like a field of nine approaching at a canter the tape which marked the real start of the race, the Whithread yachts crossed the international dateline yesterday and were lining up for the charge through the Southern Ocean that makes up the fifth leg.

Still leading, and most southerly of the field, was Dee Smith in Chessie Racing. On his furthest flank to the west was Paul Cayard in cighth-placed EF Lunguage, and most easterly was Roy Heiner in Brunei Sunergy.

As they headed through 43 discrees south, the rest of the fleet was still relatively bunched with univ slight advantages apparent for 72 hours of hard work.

Tracy Edwards was expected to cross the start line st Ushant yesterday for the attempt to break the round the world sail-

22 mins and eight seconds. The 12-strong all-woman crew of the 92ft catamaran Royal & Sun Alliance need to make a fast start to south of the equator if they are to tackle the time set by the Frenchman, most lucrative invitation event. Olivier de Kersauson with confidence.

ing record of 71 days 14 hours

AD ROUND THE WORLD TROPHY WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD TROPPY
(Fifth leg. Apolded to Sito Sebestible): 1
Crassie Facing (US) 56009 reutical riles to finsit; 2 Retriba (US) 35 miles behind; 3 EF cocustion (See) 73; 4 traoestion (Nearmer (Nor)
12: 5 Marti Cup (Mon) 130; 6 Swedish Natch
(Swe) 14; 7 Sit Cut (Sig) 141; 8 EF Language
(Swe) 218; 9 EnuneiSunergy (Nath) 55.

- Stuart Alexander

SNOOKER

## by 'Swampy'

John Higgins yesterday became

The improving Hamilton was hardly the ideal opponent if he was to end that run. Hamilton, known as "Swampy", ran out a 6-3 winner after compiling breaks of 46, 48, and 82 to lead 3-2 and a 133 clearance

the first major failure of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley when he lost his opening match to Anthony Hamilton.

## Higgins sunk

that the world No 2 has failed to win a match at the sport's

American football American rooman
The best-selling author forn Clancy
marged yeslexiby as one of three men
who could buy the Minnesota Vikings.
Clancy's bid was one of three accepted yesterday by the Vikings' current
owners. The San Antionio businessman

It is the third year in a row

in the sixth frame.

meley v Tottenhem (7.45) ..... wcastle v Stevenage (7.45) ...

FIRST DIVISION Middlesbrough v Tranmere (7.45)

SCREWED DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bioington v Bristol Menor Fam.
LINUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Sports v BAT Sports. WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Carterbury v Sheppey (745); Co-chitrian v Cockennii (745). PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Forres Mechanics v Buckle Thighs; Lossie-mouth v Fraserburgh; Naim County v Pe-replant pontras League Premier Division: Liv-erocol v Blackburn (70) (at Chester City);

THIRD TEST (Adelaide, finel day): Australia drow with South Africa. Australia win

AUSTRALIA - First Innings 350 (M A Tay-

MacGIII, Bowling: Poliock 30.4-12-61-2 (nb2); Klusen-er 30-10-67-4 (nb3); Kallis 16-10-20-1; Sym-cox 18-2-42-0; McMillen 18-2-33-0; Cronie

(Aus).
The Pekistani leg-spinner Mushtaq
Ahmed completed an 11-wicket haul
yesterday in his country's 307-run tourmetich victory over Griqualand West.
Michaeler.

TOUR MATCH (Kimberley, SA, Bnel day of fourt: Peldstan 418 for 8 dec (Saeed Ar-war 117) and 216 for 9 dec; Griqueland West

bres: 11 & Cowie (NZ) and S G Randell

ham (72).

AVON INSUPANCE COMBINATION First
Division: Brighton v Welford (70); Charlton
v Luton (20); Ipswich v Swindon (70);
Portsmouth v West Ham (70); Southempton v Millwall; Winbledon v Crystal Palace

ice hockey

Backetball UNG-BALL TROPHY Semi-final first leg: Shafiled Sharle v Greeter London Leopards

NHL: NY islanders 4 Pitisburgh 2: New Jer-sery 1 Ottawa 0: Buffelo 7 fempa Bey 3; Dal-les 5 Toronto 1; Edmonton 1 Los Angeles 0; Colorado 2 Vencouver 1; NY Rangers 3 Son Jose 2 Rugby Union

ice hockey

Eddle Halvey of Shannon has been ruled out of the Ireland A team to play Scotland A at Donnybrook on Friday Scotland A at Domybrook on Friday
because of knee-ligsment demage. He
will be replaced by obtomate Alan Culnian, making his debut at A lavel.
SCOTLAND A TEAM (v Ireland A, Doenytorook, Dublin, Friday): H Gilmour (Heiot's FP and Edinburgh): S Longstuff
(Cundee High School FP and Caledonia), A
Shiel (Melrose and Scotlish Borders), J
MeLaren (String County and Caledonia); B
Redgath (Melrose and Scotlish Borders), B
Redgath (Melrose and Scotlish Borders,
capt): P Wright (West of Scotland and Scotteh Borders), K Melkenste (String County
and Caledonia); S Mituray (Borders), Getti, S
Reid (Boroughmuir and Edinburgh), A Poulney (Northempton), Replacements: 1 Offloor (Currie and Caledonia), I MeAsstand

(Loaden Scottish), G Burns (Walsonians and Edinburgh), G Flootsteent (Stifting County and Catedonia), G Parrett (West of Scotland and Glasgow), G McHerbana (Glasgow Hawka and Glasgow), S Brotherstone (Molrose and Scottish Borders).

AUSTRALIA CUP (Pertit, Western Australia) Second day: 1 0 Berter (NZ) 8 2; 2= M Holmberg (Swe) 82; P Gimour (Aus) 8 3; 4 T Besic (Cne) 7 2; 5 8 Destremau (Aus) 6 3; 8 6 Lucas (Aus) 5 4; 7 N Witey (Aus) 5 6; 8 II Clerk (Aus) 4 5; 9 J Spithii (Aus) 4 6; 18 L Pitot (R) 6 7; 11 N Calon (I) 1 9; 12 G Shaidulco (Pus) 0 8

Snooker BENSON AND HEDGES MASTERS (Worm bley Conference Centre): Second round: J Wattens (Thei) bt J Perrott (Eng) 6-5; K Doherty (In) bt T Drego (Maita) 6-4; K Do-herty (In) bt T Drego (Maita) 8-4;

Sports sponsorship Sports sporeorship rose to record levels in 1997, Tony Banks, the Sports Minister announced yesterday, it increased an astimated £19.9m to £321.6m with a record 995 new sponsastion with a fector so how spor-sorship deals reported during the year. Banks also confirmed that a number of sports, including angling, cricket and derts, here managed to find new spor-sors for events which were previous-ly sponsored by the tobacco industry.

Table tennis The Maidenhead teenager Terry Young has been chosen to make his fifth appearance for England at Great Yarmouth tomorrow in the European Men's League Division One promotion match with Graece. Young, 15, was infine form at the weekend when he reached the final of the man'ts singles at the West Maritands Grand Prix four. at the West Midlands Grand Prix tour-nament at Stratford. The match against Greece is the most irroportant fixture of the season, with the winning team progressing to the final against the Czech Republic.

Tennis Women will take part in the Grand Stam Cop in Munich for the first time this autumn. The eight best perform-ers in the year's Grand Stam events will take part in the event from 29 Septerriber to 4 October with £500,000 at stake for the winner. In turn the men's event, held since 1990, will be reduced to 12 entrants from 16 last year, with the winner receiving £300,000. It was also confirmed yesterday that the tournament will remain in Munich until 2001. At last year's event there had been talk of a switch to Asia after 1999.

Mark Philippoussis, the Australian No 2, has been dropped for the year by Davis Cup captain John Newcombe

in the first two rounds. Philippoussis' manager, Rob Aivatoglou, said the 20-year-old wanted to spend more time with his family early on in the year while not on the world professional tour. But Newcombe responded by armoureing that Philippoussis would not play in the Davis Cup at all this year, instead he has turned to 16-year-old Lleyton Hewitt in his team to play Zimbabwe from 3 to 5 April.

from 2 to 5 April
MARSEILLE ATP EVENT First round: M
Gustafason (Swe) bt J Van Herck (Bel) 6-7
6-4 6-2: 8 Grosjeen (Fr) bt J Terango (US)
6-3 6-4 A Clement (Fr) bt S Schalken (Neth)
4-6 7-6 6-0; J Alorso (Sp) bt L Rous (Fr) 7-6
6-3-3; Il Vacek (Gz Rep) bt T Nydahi (Swe)
7-6 7-6; S Burguera (Sp) bt T Carbonel (Sp)
6-2 4-6 6-3. from 2 to 5 April

6-2-4-6-5-3
CROATIA ATP INDOOR TOURINAMENT
(Spit) Singles Bret round: R Schutter (Ger)
tx 1 Horman (62) 6-3-1-6-3-5 K Carlson (Den)
tx 1 Horman (62) 6-3-1-6-3-5 K Carlson (Den)
tx 1 Drescuru (Rom) 6-4-6-4 A Memory
(Rus) tx 1 Motolown (Porm) 6-4-6-4: S Secter (Ger) tx F Bergh (Swe) 6-3-7-5. M Rosset
(Swit) tx R Furtan (ii) 3-6-2-5-3.
TYPIAY DAM MACISIC WINSENIS Onco. (Switt) fit R Furtan (ii) 9-6 6-2 6-3.
TORAY PAN PACIFIC WOMEN'S Open (Rokyo) Stugles first round: L Fang (Ch) bt T Tamasugam (Thai) 6-1 6-3; M Saeid (Japan) bt M Serra (So) 3-6 6-3 6-3; E Lichtovisseu (Rus) bt M Lusic (Croa) 6-1 6-2; Y exinda (Japan) bt M Grzybowska (Pol-6 4-7-6 6-4; Spiries (Rom) bt Park Sung-Hee (Kon) 7-5 6-0; R Garande (I) bt K Boogert (Near) 3-6 6-1 6-4; A Sughyama (Japan) bt K A Guse (Aus) 7-6 6-0; M Maliceva (Bul) bt A Fluber (Go) 3-5 7-6 6-1.

S 7-6 8-1.

WOMEN'S SATELLITE TOURNAMENT (The WITMEN'S First round: J Ward (GS) to H Thoms (Gor) 1-8 6-1 6-2 L Cartwright (GS) to L Pertons (GS) 7-6 7-6; H Van Aakteren (Ned) 6-8 6-3; G Casoni (II) bt S Lycton (GS) 6-4 6-0; M Koutstaal (Neth) bt N Egorova (Rus) 6-4 6-0; M Koutstaal (Neth) bt N Egorova (Rus) 6-4 6-1; G Am (Gor) bt S Erre (Fra) 6-4 5-7 6-2. P Mandula (Huri) bt A Brogel (Ger) 6-3 6-0; D Manova (Hus) bt H Mattrieus (GS) 3-6 6-1 6-2; M Persson (Swe) bt S Trik (Ned) 6-4 6-4; N Humoson (CE Reg) bt A Van Der Hurik (Den) 6-2 6-3; K Cross (GS) bt S Rynazzevska (Po) 6-1 7-8.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

The number of Bundesliga matches due to be postponed between 20 March and 26 April to allow German authorities to transport nuclear waste. Police say they will be too busy protecting the waste from demonstrafors to control matches.

WINTER GAMES

#### Olympic leaders are lebbying Washington to refrain from taking military action against Iraq during the Winter Games.

The International Olympic Committee appealed yesterday for the United States to abide by a UN resolution that urges all nations to observe an "Olympic Truce" charing the Nagano Games, which start on Saturday.

the US would not abide by the principles they have adhered to," François Carrard, the IOC director general, said. "We hope the truce and peace can prevail binding UN general assembly

"We are not involved in engaging in politics," Carrard added. "The United States of America takes whatever decision they feel appropriate."

The White House suggested on Monday that the Olympics would not be a factor in a decision on military action. Spokesman Mike McCurry said: "Not to my knowledge is any of the decision-making or thinking that the president and his senior policy leaders are undertaking

affected by sporting events." The US was among the 178 nations which signed the non-

Washington under pressure to observe truce resolution in November. The resolution, which is based on a tradition dating back to the ancient games in Greece, calls on member states to stop hostilities while the Olympics are

Dick Schultz, executive director of the US Olympic Committee, said that if fighting broke out he would consider asking US armed forces in Japan to help provide security for the American team. "If we felt it was neeessary, we'd request the military to help with security," Schultz said. "We'll do anything we need to do to protect our athletes."

szars a new cases as with the National Sport-ing Club in London on 26 March. Hon-eyghan, who lost five of his 48 contests, is hoping for support on the night from Frank Bruno, Chris Eubank and Herbie Hide.

Hed McCombs and Vikings' president. Roger Headrick are the primary investors in the other two proposals.

The Detroit Pistons, who have failed

to live up to expectations this season, sacked their head coach Doug Collins yesterday. Assistant Avin Gentry was named interim coach for the remain-

der of the season, beginning with yes-terday's game in Washington against the Wizards.

une vvizzarus. NBA: Washington 113 Detroit 10; Cleveland 109 Minnesota 99; Mierni 90 Atlenta 83; Phoenic 108 Philadelphia 97; Delies 104 Van-couver 90; Chicago 111 Denver 72

Lloyd Honeyghan, the former undis-puted world welterweight champlon, starts a new career as a promoter with a charity show at the National Sport-

Basketball

TODAY'S FIXTURES A CUP FOURTH-ROUND REPLAYS

NATIONWEDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE 

WSON WESSEX LEAGUE COWES

Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester Utd (20). Second Division: Cartiste v Shrewebury (20). League Cup Group One: Wradhem v Old-ham (20). Group Sin: Scarborough v Pother-ham (20).

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP Group C: Moseley v Bristol (745). TEMMENTS SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP Third Division: Glasgow Southern v Glan-

Other sports

SNOOKER: Benson & Hedges Masters

The three jockeys questioned, but not charged, by police last week and then suspended by the Jockey Club will be allowed to ride from tomorrow following a volte-face by racing's disciplinary body. Richard Edmondson reports.

When banning Jamie Osborne, Dean Gallagher and Leighton Aspell last week, racing's investigative force announced a meeting for today "when the jockeys will have an opportunity

to make any further representations as to why that suspension should not be continued for a longer period". In the event, there will be no explanation required and the trio will simply have their licences returned at Portman Square.

The Jockey Club's reason for its reversal of attitude is simple: they asked people. Or in mandarin-speak they took "soundings within the industry". There will, bowever, be no official apology. The Jockey Club maintains it acted correctly to maintain public confidence.

The only panic, though, was at the Jockey Club itself. Punters still turned out this week

crease in turnover). The weighing room was no Bastille for frustrated backers.

Christopher Foster, the Jockey Club's executive director, said yesterday: "The Licensing Committee still requires the jockeys to attend [today's meeting] because it wishes there to be no room for doubt at to why the Committee suspended the licences in the first place." This is just as well as the space remains as large as ever.

"Not only has it been a difficult week for the jockeys, but also highly confusing," Michael Caulfield, the secretary to the sobcitor, said: "I would like to

Jockey Club has been curious morrow resulted from vigorous to say the least and we look forward to our meeting with them tomorrow. It will be a unique feeling to go to the Jockey tion they were considering sus-

Club already knowing the result.

"If it had not been for the representations made by the jockeys' solicitors, the three riders may, I believe, have been suspended until 29 April or beyond. I am terribly aware of the surprising that this was not seriousness of the past week's made clear to us." events, but the Jockey Club did not apply natural justice and this bad to be challenged."

Andrew Chalk, Osborne's

representations made by the jockeys' solicitors. At the outset, the Committee gave no indica-

pensions on a short-term basis. "The Committee did not inform us that they would be taking soundings of the industry to assess the risk to public confidence in horseracing and it is

"We were told that we could return on 4 February so that we could make further representations as to why the suspensions 'sbould not be continued for a good reasons why the licences should be reinstated."

It is the residual effect of the last week that most bothers the jockeys and their supporters. The loss of character is more of a problem than loss of earnings," Graeme James, Aspell's agent, said. "To the public it's something that won't go away in a hurry and he'll be remembered for some time as being one of the 'weighing-room three'."

The conditional (apprentice) iockey's main trainer, Josh Gifford, added: "I would like an explanation from the Jockey Club. Leighton is a conditional fock- Jockey Club's capabilities.

(figures from bookmakers and Jockeys' Association, said yes-the Tote actually show an in-terday. The behaviour of the to hold a further meeting to-to beld a further meeting to-to put the onus on us to show exponsible for him. It's an absolute sponsible for him. It's an absolute joke. They've got themselves in a bloody great hole and now they can't get out of it."

Aspell is likely to be the first of the three back in action. "This week has been very stressful for me and my family," he said. "I am very relieved to have my licence returned and am looking forward to getting back on to the racecourse where I can concentrate on winning races."

That opportunity may come tomorrow on Gifford's New Rising at Towcester. It will he a-significant moment in a case which has hardly highlighted the

Drama goes on as Yates awaits verdict

Kevin Yates, the Bath prop accused of biting Simon Fenn's ear, yesterday faced a Rugby Football Union disciplinary panel at Twickenham. Chris Hewett reports.

The sorry story of Simoo Fenn's ear was turning into a saga of Homeric proportions yesterday as Kevin Yates turned up at Twickenham to answer allegations of ear-biting. Whenthe highly rated 26-year-old prop was summoned to face the music he could hardly bave expected it to drag on like a Wagner opera, but as darkness fell over south-west Londoo last night there was still no sign of an end to his ordeal.

The proceedings, chaired by Michael Burtoo QC in the company of two Rugby Football Union management board members, Jonathan Dance and Brian Baister, began at 9.30 in the morning. Yates and Fenn, the London Scottish flanker he was accused of assaulting, were there from the off, as were the rest of the Bath pack who played in the fateful Tetley's Bitter Cup match at the Rec on 10 January.

After nine hours of considering medical evidence, hearing witness statements and cooducting cross-examinations, the panel were a "long way short of a verdict", in the words of Richard Prescott, the RFU director of communications. "The hearing weot straight through hunch," he added, to eliminate any suspicion that the unioo was conducting this piece of business over the Iraditional three courses and lashings of gin and tonic.

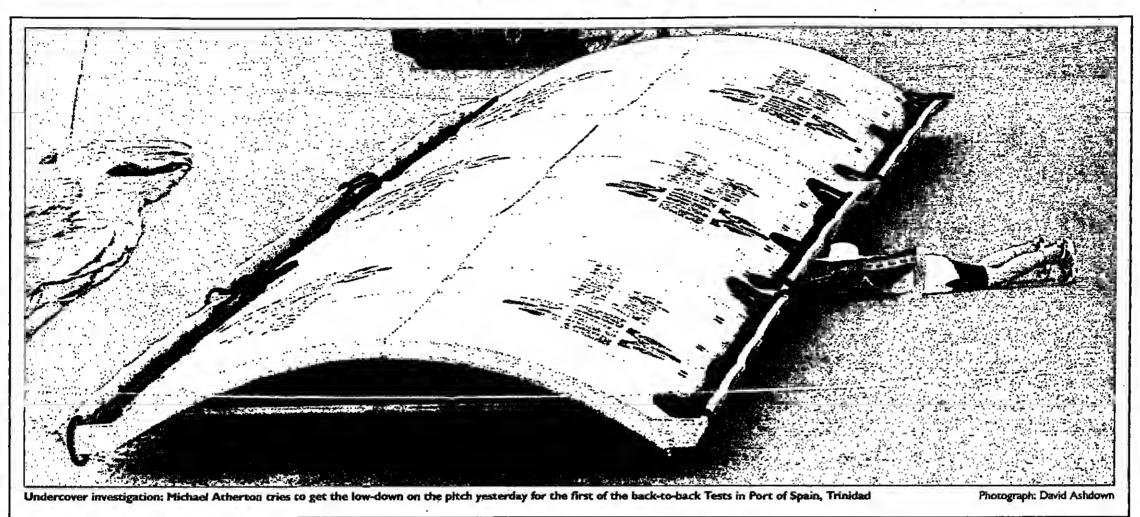
awa

 $\widetilde{c}_{h}$ 

One Bath player, Federico Mendez, flew in from Spain to be there. The Argentinian hooker was one of three players, including Yates and his fellow prop Victor Ubogu, originally cited by the Exiles. Like other witnesses he filed a written account of events as well as making a per-

sonal appearance. After intense pressure from London Scottish, who paraded Fenn before the press and television cameras 48 hours after the match, Bath suspended Yates on full pay on 13 January. He missed the Heineken Cup final with Brive and a number of England squad sessions, from which he withdrew on diplomatic grounds. He would almost certainly have been named in England's party for this weekend's Five Nations match against the French in Paris.

The likely outcome last night was an adjournment, either to today or next week. If Yates, who has always protested his innocence, was less than amused by the protracted agony of uncertainty, the tribunal members were acutely aware of the legal consequences of getting it wrong. Who said rugby was only a game?



### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

**ACROSS** 1 Ena. a mad sort of woman

Do its sufferers call housedoctors? (8)

10 Epistoler in Minnesota

11 What is the value of a poet lost for words? (5) 12 Bird among the faster,

head-burying sort (4) 13 Rise and set off for drive (3-2-3-2)

15 Broken promise of a paid

part-timer (7) 16 Takes aim in spectacles (6) 19 Spies following a Manx cat in tropical shruh (6)

21 Excitable bloke is getting the needle (7) 23 Loose tie on a principal reacher in college (10)

25 Monkshood, say, that has a 8 function on a chimney (4) 27 Excited cry of woman receiving ring (5)

St Michael's church in

Stare at boy endlessly in

event of great importance

through a transom (8)

maths (7)

republic and getting a B in

Produces singular hocks (6)

Lightweight individual tak-

Work? Not I. anyway -

given alternative (6)

Oslo, possibly (6)

summerhouse (6)

14 Coy appeals put out in

28 Weapon giving most trouble in disarmament proramme? (9) 29 Gaunt and tall? Seek treat- 17 They rest on a bridge, look-

ing over three fields (9) 18 Dawn, perhaps, seen ment! (8) 30 Compensation whilst not

actually filming? (6)
DOWN condensation (8)

20 One leaving NW African Suspicion of corrosion after Rash around head of radius 21 is affecting outer skin (9)

Wine taken in feasting (4) Hitches in traffic jams (7) Fawn Legend, all singing ing traditional sea-air (5) all dancing production (10) 26 Worker loud in complaint Fawn Legend, all singing Drawn by siren leeward, say the sailors (5)

**FOOTBALL** 

### Italians renew commitment to Chelsea

contracts at Cheisea.

Zola has committed himself to the club until 2002, taking him to the age of 35, while Di Matteo also signed a similar contract extension taking him to the age of 31, the club revealed yesterday. Their promising 20year-old midfielder Mark Nicholls has also extended his contract.

Chelsea bave also heen linked with the Rangers striker Brian Laudrup, whose cootract runs out this summer. His agent was reported to have beld talks at Stamford Bridge last weekend, and the Dane is expected to choose between

Chelsea and Ajax. Portsmouth will discover in

two-year extensions to their eree, Edward Martin, was loan from Hamburg hinge on Gomes, and a possible swap attacked by a Sheffield United supporter during the 1-1 draw oo Saturday.

The FA launched an inquiry following the incideot at Frat-10n Park, when Martin was knocked unconscious. David Davies, the FA spokesman, confirmed yesterday they will wait for the report of the referee, Mark Halsey, before deciding what action to take.

Meanwhile, Pompey have ahandooed their attempt to sign the Australian international goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac following a sixth-month legal wrangle over the Department of Employment's refusal to issue a work permit.

Sheffield Wednesday are 10 days' time what action they also at the mercy of the DoE - manager, has denied rumours

the success of their ap for a work permit.

Wednesday have agreed to pay Hamburg an initial fee of £60,000 plus an additional £20,000 for each appearance the 25-year-old makes during a loan period that extends until the end of the season. The Premiership club have

also agreed a fee of £800,000, should they decide to sign bim permanently in the summer.

Manchester City could have a third Georgian in their side on Saturday after finally receiving a work permit for Kakhaber Tskhadadzc, after beating Liverpool to sign the Alania Vladikavkaz defender.

George Graham, the Leeds around £500,000.

David Findlay, the SFA

spokesman, said: "There have

been a variety of letters received

following an incident at the

Gianfranco Zola and Roberto will face from the Football Astheir hopes of signing the Pollinking him with a £3m move for sociation after the assistant reflection is hadefunder Pawel Wojtala on Portugal's leading scorer Nuno deal involving Rod Wallace.

"I was at Benfica oo Sunday, but I was actually watching a player from Setubal," Graham said. "So there's no truth in the story linking myself with Gomes. I have not made a hid for him and I bave also not received an offer for Wallace from Benfica.

Newcastle have signed Abcrdeen's Scotland Under-21 midfielder Stephen Glass on a pre-contract agreement. Glass travelled to Tyneside for talks yesterday to tie up a deal, after playing in Monday's 3-1 defeat at Celtic. Aberdeeo rate the 21-year-old at £1.5m, although the Magpies would prefer to pay

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### Gascoigne awaits SFA verdict over Old Firm flute antics

Paul Gascoigne will discover today if be is to face disciplinary action by the Scottish Football Association over bis controversial flute-playing gesture at the

New Year Old Firm game. The England midfielder has already been fined £20,000 by Rangers and has issued a formal public apology after imitating a flutc-player while warming up for the match on 2 January at Parkhead.

Regarded as an inflammatory gesture, the incident brought protests from the Celtic board, as well as their fans, and it will be discussed by the SFA's

executive committee today. Gascoigne will not be appearing in person but will receive writteo notification of any punishment.

Old Firm match. The committee will discuss the matter relative to the playmine it is occessary to take the

matter further they would wish Johnstone.

to inform the parties concerned first before making any public statement."

Gascoigne is currently battling to regain full fitness in time for Rangers' game with Dunfermline at Ibrox on Saturday, er's actions and if they deter- after appearing as a substitute in their weekend defeat by St

CPublished by New-paper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Cannry Wharf, London E1450L, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St. Albans Road, Watford and Hollimwood Avenue, Oldbarn. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

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